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44 Science

# THE *Country* GUIDE

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APRIL

1956

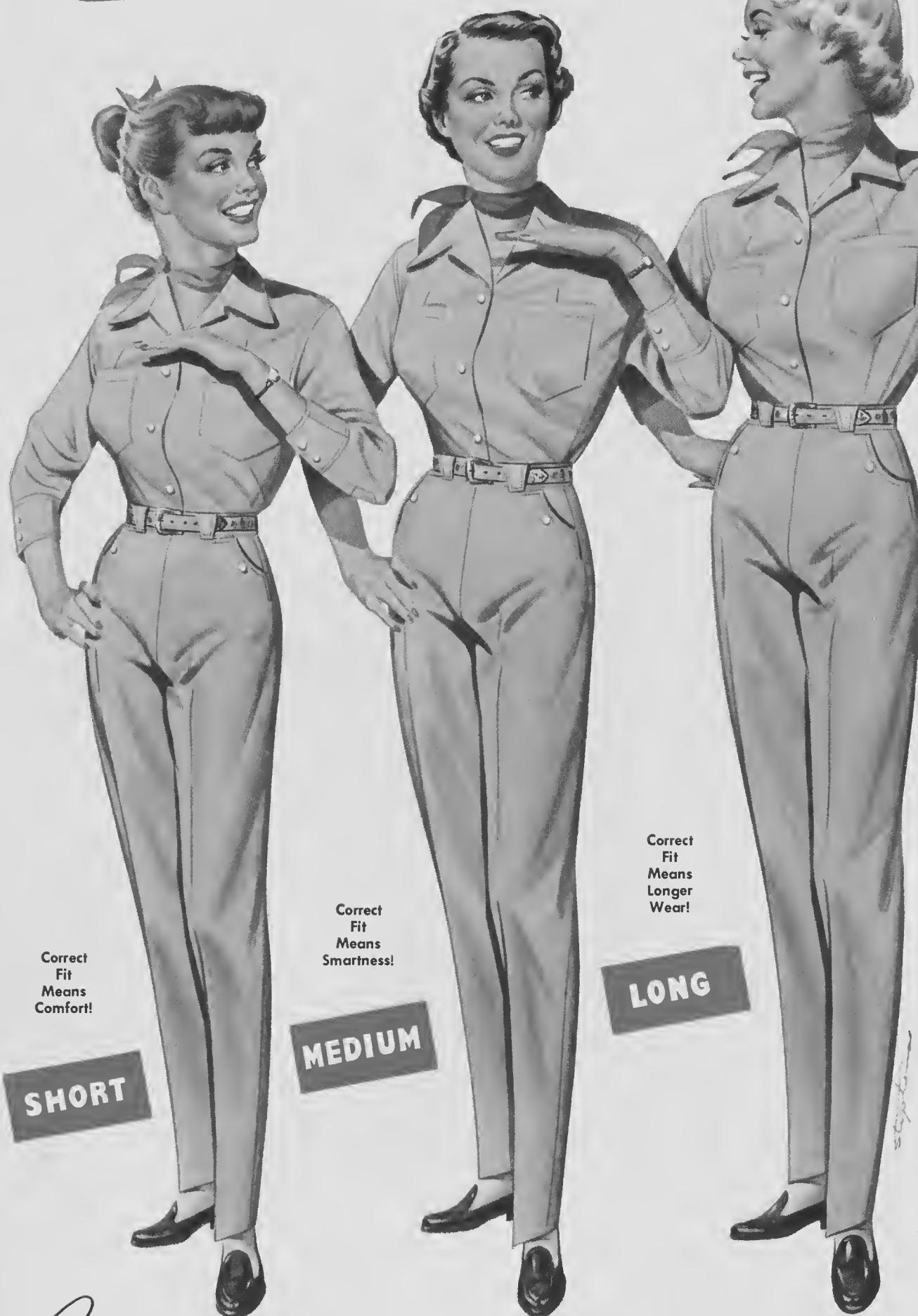
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# THE Country GUIDE

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**COVER:** The sharp-eyed individual on our cover this month is well known to livestock producers and poultrymen, particularly in western Canada and northern Ontario. A coyote, he lives largely on gophers and mice, but enjoys a meal of turkey, lamb, or mutton. Clarence Tillenius has shown him on a strawstack in prairie country, ready to move in any direction—and fast.

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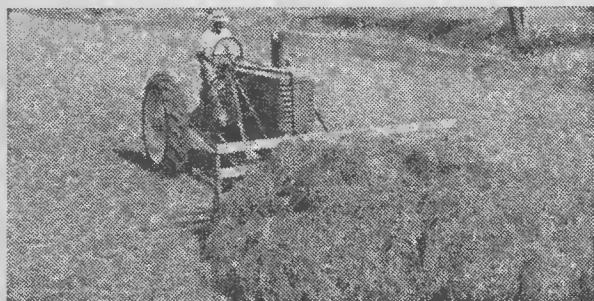
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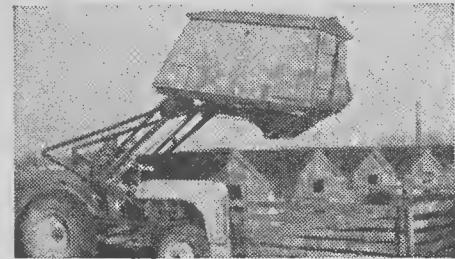


**"50" LOADER** with buck rake attachment. Lowest cost way to handle hay. Also carries 10 to 15 bales at a time. Mechanical trip for dumping. Loader available with single or double ram cylinders. (New low price on single ram cylinder model). Fits row crop tractors. Conversion model for tractors with adjustable front wheels. Up to 2,500 lbs. breakaway power.

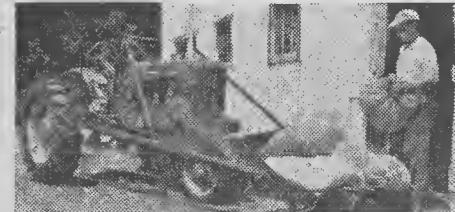
**"LSU LOADER** with stacker attachment. Bucks and stacks up to 1000 lbs. Unloading gate hydraulically operated by driver. Loader fits large tractors with non-adjustable front and rear wheels. Extra wide and standard models. Displacement type, single ram cylinders. Like the "50", breakaway power up to 2,500 lbs. Works with "built in" or New Idea-Horn hydraulic power unit.



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## FARM NOTES



Experts at the recent Third International Wheat Rust Conference in Mexico included Dr. W. F. Hanna, Ottawa; Donald D. Fletcher, Minneapolis; Dr. D. G. Haarilton, Ottawa; Dr. R. N. Heermans, Fargo; Dr. Rudy F. Peterson, Winnipeg.

### Rust Problem Is International

ALTHOUGH the wheat rust menace is as serious as ever, some advances in the methods used to solve the problem were noted by 80 delegates from the major wheat countries of the American continent, including 11 from Canada, at the Third International Wheat Rust Conference in Mexico recently.

In the past, resistant wheat varieties were mainly introductions from many parts of the world, but much more promising material is now being found from breeding projects. Another advance has been made in identifying genes for rust resistance. In addition, genes found in relatives of wheat are being transferred to wheat.

In all countries where wheat rusts occur, it is found that new races of rust are able to multiply as older races diminish through the introduction of wheat varieties resistant to them. There was emphasis at the conference on international co-operation in testing varieties and discovering new sources of rust resistance. ✓

### Barter Deals For Feed Grain

WITH cash in short supply on prairie farms these days, the old "horse trader" instinct is being revived. Auction notice boards in many towns list used car bargains that can be had on delivery of a certain quantity of wheat or oats. Similar deals are offered in the press, or over radio broadcasts, every day.

Farm implements, new cars and trucks, building materials, and even real estate, are some of the items that western farmers are purchasing with grain. In most cases, the business firm disposing of its products in this way, merely acts as an agent between a farmer who has grain to sell, and another who has livestock to feed. Invariably, the livestock man is the one who has to supply the cold cash. The firm notifies the latter that he can pick up the feed grain he has ordered, at a certain farm; accepts payment for it; and then tells the grain farmer to pick up his new truck or tractor. For wheat, the price ranges from 60 to 70 cents a bushel.

In some cases the business has become a bit more involved. One western equipment firm owns a few hun-

dred head of feeder cattle on a leased farm in Central Alberta, and feeds the grain taken on equipment sales. Whatever form the "barter" deals may take, it is difficult to tell just how much grain is being moved in this manner, although one dealer is said to have handled 50,000 bushels. ✓

### Ontario Sheep Population Declining

LIVESTOCK commissioner for Ontario, W. P. Watson, advised the Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association to celebrate during their golden jubilee this year, because at the rate that the sheep population was decreasing, the group would have no reason for existence before many years were up.

Mr. Watson placed part of the blame for the decline of the sheep industry on policies, whether carried out by the Association, or by governments, which insisted on maintaining a lot of breeds that had little commercial importance.

"Nobody is going to make any money out of sheep as a hobby or sideline," he said. "It won't exist as a sideline, in any area in Ontario. But it will reward the man who specializes in sheep with as high returns as from any other class of livestock." ✓

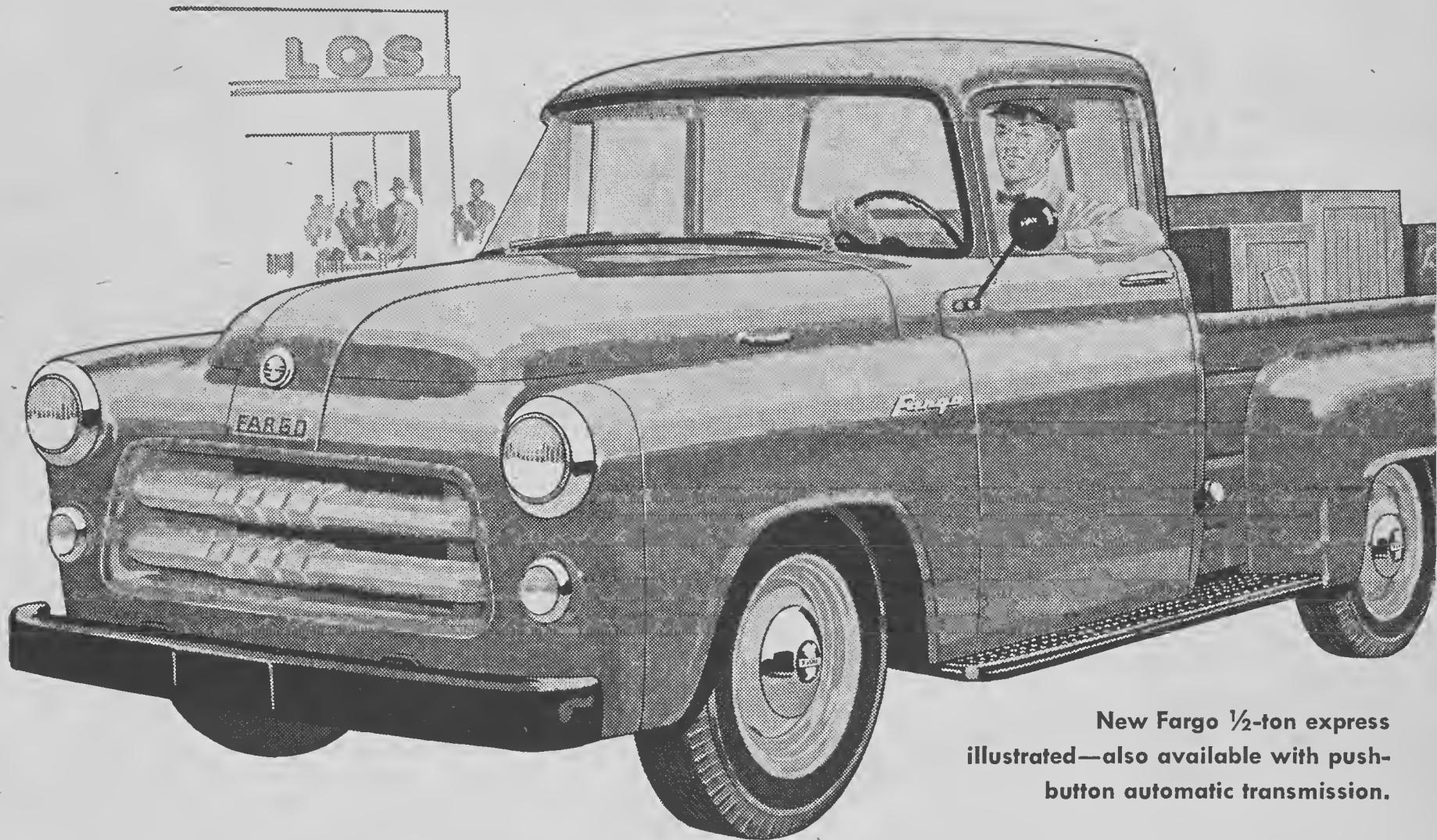
### Surplus Milk In Fraser Valley

THE passing of the British Columbia Milk Industry Act, which introduces equalization, or the blended price system, into milk marketing, has presented a problem to the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association. It will benefit by having a larger share of the fluid milk market, but this also means that the independent dairies will have more surplus milk, which could have a serious effect on the F.V.M.P.A. manufacturing business.

The Association has reacted quickly to this situation by agreeing to make an offer to the independents for their surplus milk at a non-contract price, which is 20 cents per hundredweight less than amount paid to F.V.M.P.A. members for manufactured milk. The difference represents the amount that members have invested in their plant. If, however, independents sign the normal contract, they will receive the member price for surplus milk, less the usual contribution to the revolving fund. ✓

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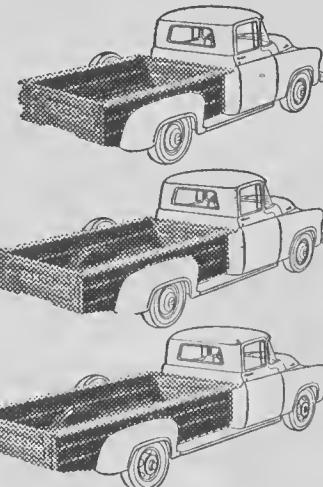


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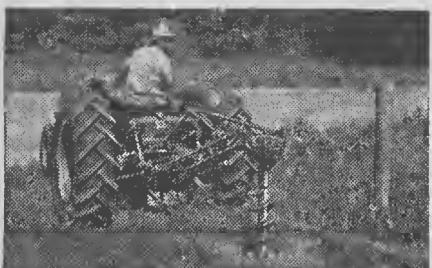
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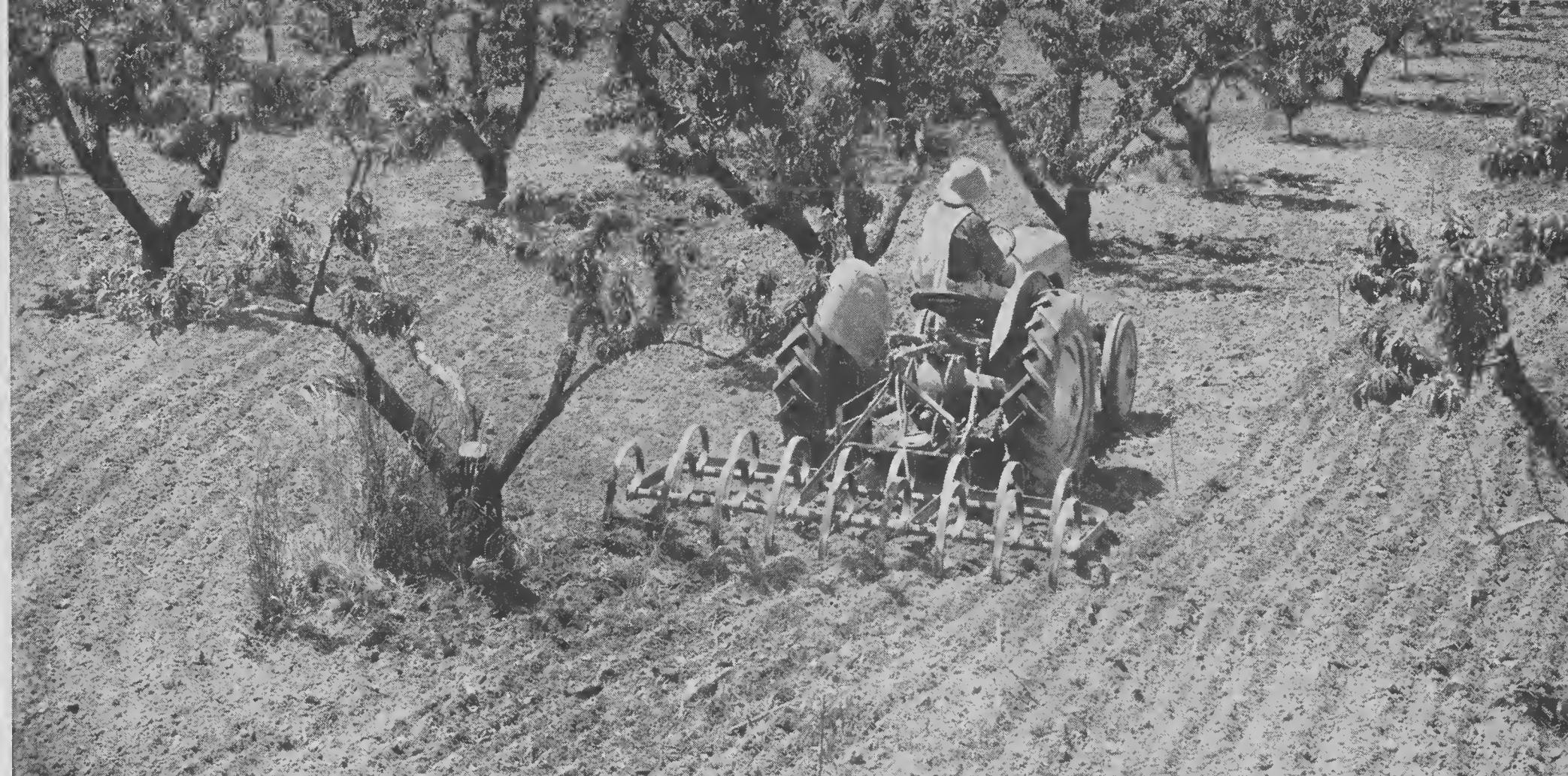
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# A Board of Nine Growers Markets Ontario Peaches

*Here is the why and how of the Ontario Fresh-Peach Growers' Marketing Board*

by DON BARON

**H**OT, dry weather last summer ripened one of the biggest Ontario peach crops on record. This provided not only a new test for the appetites of Canadian peach eaters, but also for the still-infant Ontario Fresh-Peach Growers' Marketing Board.

Apparently both came through with flying colors. Canadians ate ten per cent more peaches than in 1954, and were willing to pay prices averaging four cents a basket more than the previous year. Some observers, searching for even more convincing proof of the Board's effectiveness, said it maintained prices 10 or 15 cents higher than would have been the case without Board control.

Yet last summer, there were loud cries that the Board would never see through the season. The blazing August sun ripened the crop in a rush. Day after day peaches flooded into the market. Many backed up into storage, and some spoiled there. Newspapers pictured tons of peaches piled on the ground, rotting. An accusing finger was pointed at the Board that caused the waste.

But when the crop season was over and the growers came to their annual meetings, they didn't come to throw out the scheme. Their faith appeared to be unshaken in the principle of orderly and controlled marketing.

The Board answered the critics then. Despite the headlines, it denied that peaches fit for use were taken out of storage at any time and dumped, to artificially stimulate high prices. The fact was that little more than one per cent of the crop—mostly the less popular, early clingstone varieties—spoiled in storage before a market could be found. The peaches spoiled because the hot summer had ripened the more popular varieties before the earlier peaches could be sold. And the Board claimed that

during other bumper crop years, as many, or more, peaches were left to rot under the trees in the orchards, because of sagging prices.

The Board had its beginning in 1954, when 79 per cent of all the 3,000 growers marched to the polls and voted to set up a producer-controlled marketing board for fresh peaches. Growers put forward dozens of reasons why the very survival of the industry demanded a major overhaul of the marketing system then in vogue.

Both retailers and wholesalers agreed with them that peaches, which had to be picked and sold in ten short weeks of summer, were the most difficult fresh fruit in Ontario to handle. Growers pointed out that while canning peaches were contracted through a marketing board at agreed prices, the fresh fruit trade became the dumping ground for surplus. Dealers and shippers handling the fresh peaches were in cut-throat competition among themselves and the growers charged that "they had failed to develop an orderly system of marketing, one that assured us at least cost of production for our fruit." In fact, the growers had lost confidence in ability of the trade to do the difficult selling job for them, without some supervision.

**T**HE most severe charge they levelled against it was for its practice of "consignment selling." This became prevalent in the midst of heavy peach deliveries, when shippers often refused to offer growers any price for the fruit they handled only on commission. Too often, they gave it to the broker on commission, too, and since the broker had none of his own money invested, he could throw the fruit onto the market at give-away prices, often bringing all prices tumbling down. His only penalty was a smaller commission.

Growers said too, that the trade had failed to give them adequate distribution of the peaches. Now, a newly completed study of peach marketing by the Farm Economics Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, verifies the charge, showing that northern regions with 12 per cent of Ontario's population get only five per cent of the fresh peaches. Even a dealer who was unsympathetic to the marketing scheme admitted that too often dealers were satisfied to "bill Toronto," or "bill Montreal" with peaches, when better markets might have been waiting.

U.S. growers, despite longer shipping distances and seasonal duties to pay in August and September, had taken a sizeable chunk of the Canadian market for fresh peaches. A few years ago, Ontario shipped peaches in volume to the Canadian west. In the meantime, however, U.S. growers, with brand names to assure quality, legislation to keep poor peaches off the market in times of heavy production, and pre-cooling facilities to assure less breakdown, had taken over almost the entire prairie market. About 390 carlots of U.S. peaches went into the prairies in 1954, less than ten from Ontario made the trip. Even Quebec housewives were buying half as many U.S., as Ontario peaches.

**Q**UALITY was another sore point with growers. Government graders, they said, caught in the rush of loading platforms, had little chance to make adequate inspection of the market-bound fruit. Individual growers had attempted to produce better peaches, but couldn't count on premium prices for their best fruit. In times of shortage, all prices were likely to be high, and when a bumper crop went to market, the price of everything slumped.

Individual shippers, too, had tried to emphasize quality, the growers admitted, but competition was so keen on the market that during shortages, the price of all fruit was likely to be high and individual growers could get good prices for everything. If dealers got too tough on poor peaches, the grower could call in another shipper, and send the quality-minded one on his way. "Missionaries die poor," said the trade. None of them could afford to do the missionary work alone. They made no move to get together on it.

Finally, the growers charged that in 20 years the methods of handling peaches hadn't changed. The heaped six-quart basket, with its admitted weakness of excessive spoilage, was still the standard container, despite a revolution in the cartoning of most other food products. All of this while the marketing system ground along in an apparently one-horse fashion, and (Please turn to page 78)



[Alberta Gov't photo]  
Soil is washed away by gullies such as this, but "Save the Soil" campaign wage war on this waste.

AGRICULTURISTS are always seeking an ideal tool to help them get the "know how" of agricultural science across to the farmer. Large-scale methods of communication such as pamphlets, radio, television, and public meetings are a great help, but none of these carry the impact of a personal farm visit.

What is needed most is something which will enable a single worker to reach a large group, while still retaining a measure of personal contact. A big order you might say, but Alberta extension people believe they have found at least part of the answer. This is the Farm and Home Improvement Program, conducted at individual farm level through local agricultural societies and other groups.

Now in its fourth year, the new program is designed to improve net farm income and farm living over a number of years, through annual goals set by each participating farmer. Farm and Home Improvement means just that—the year's goal for one farm can be the installing of an indoor plumbing system, and for another, a new cropping program, or any number of similar projects. It's not *what* a farmer or farm wife agrees to do, but whether or not they do it, and how well they do it. As one district agriculturist said, "The jobs being done are those the farmer intended to tackle some day, but never got around to doing. Now he gets after them, because he knows someone will be coming along to check up."

The degree of success of each entrant is decided by a point-scoring system, from inspections carried out by the local district agriculturist or, where applicable, by the district home economist. For each objective reached, the top rating is 100 points—50 for finishing the job, and another 50 if it is done perfectly. At the completion of each year's work, entrants receive a certificate, with a special rating for the number of projects attempted. Four projects



[Guide photo]  
Sid Thompson, of Bentley Farm and Home Improvement group, beside the new granary he has built.

# THE VISION OF JOHN McDONALD

*Mac remembers it to this day thirteen years later, though he hardly expected its consequences*

by C. V. FAULKNER and DON R. BARON

is rated Superior, and bears a gold seal; three, Excellent, with a blue seal; two, Good, with a red seal; and one, Qualified, with a green seal. Members generally enroll for a five-year period, after which their position will be reassessed, and they can plan a new program.

ONE of the main features of the Farm and Home Improvement Program is that it isn't a competition, where neighbor is pitted against neighbor to win a prize award. Each participant competes against the goal he set for himself: His reward is increased farm efficiency and better farm living. Although it's up to each individual to decide what objectives he will aim for each year, he is encouraged to sit down with his local district agriculturist (in the case of a farm wife, with the district home economist) and plan a series of yearly improvements that will set his farming pattern for the next 20 years. Most entrants spend the first two or three years doing small jobs such as painting the barn, or building a fence, before they attempt the full treatment.

"For the first time we have a program which appeals to people for what it will do to their farm, not for the prize money it will bring them," states F. N. Newcombe, director of extension. "Moreover, it plays no favorites. A man of limited means who achieves what he set out to do, has just as much chance of gaining 100 points as a wealthier neighbor."

To judge the progress of this program to date, it would be well to note its effect on one small area. With 41 members enrolled, the Bentley Farm and Home Improvement group last year had 31 members seed a total of 1,083 acres to hay and pasture, 12 break 266 acres of sod land in crop rotation, 12 seed 723 acres to sweet clover for green manuring purposes, seven plow 527 acres of sweet clover under, and 14 members take active measures to control gully erosion by levelling and seeding down eroded water courses. While not all of these results are due entirely to Farm and Home Improvement, the program has played a major role in expansion of the forage program in this Central Alberta community.

Commenting on this, Mr. Newcombe observed, "We are pleased when objectives chosen include a good proportion of crop rotations and erosion control measures, instead of glamour projects. This will have a lasting effect on the economy of the district."

As in many communities, farm and home improvement around Bentley has become a family affair, with a large number of home projects included. The womenfolk are using the program to get those draperies made for the front room, the chesterfield re-covered, or that sewing room finished upstairs, and at the same time keeping an eye on father and the boys to see how they're coming along.

Two "gold seal" families with a high score last year were the Brown and Rogers families of Bentley. Bruce Brown and his folks prepared land for a new shelterbelt, seeded 26 acres to hay, added three bedrooms and a bath to the house, dug a well and installed a water system, tore down an old house, moved the garage, and fenced the yard. The Jack

Rogers family planted three rows of trees along the roadside for half a mile, seeded down 25 acres of hay and plowed under 30 acres of sweet clover in rotation, levelled and seeded down two water courses, fenced the yard and completed a stone retaining wall. In the house, they re-decorated the living room, installed new drapes, papered the kitchen ceiling, and repainted the upstairs bedrooms. Multiply achievements like this over many families and you have a picture of what the program could mean to farm efficiency and farm living in the whole province.

On the face of things, farm and home improvement could well be that ideal tool extension workers



[Guide photo]  
J. M. McDonald, with the cane given to him by Hon. D. R. Ure, former Alberta Minister of Agriculture.

have been looking for. But its ability to do the job will always be limited by the number of people who agree to use it. In four years it has grown from scratch, to an enrollment of 400 farmers, 104 of them in the municipality of Lacombe, where Bentley is situated.

THE latter fact is not surprising, because advanced agricultural thinking in this area rates among the highest in Alberta. It was in Eckville, a few miles southwest of Bentley, that the "Save the Soil" campaign began over ten years ago—Alberta's first program of farm improvement, out of which evolved the broader plan of Farm and Home Improvement. It all started when one farmer had a vision.

Now, 13 years after, John M. (Mac) McDonald still can't explain the source of his vision. One night he awakened to see (Please turn to page 38)

# Potato Genius

## ... and Irish too

*He found his life work after talking the moon down the sky with a friend, and has earned an international reputation*

by J. ROLAND BAINBRIDGE



[J. R. Bainbridge photos]

**John Clarke became a Master of Agriculture of Queen's University, Belfast, for his potato work.**

**I**N a little, white-washed, thatch-roofed farmhouse, near the farthest north of Northern Ireland, early in 1924, two modest, unassuming young men met for the first time. Both had a life interest in potatoes and were to become lifelong friends.

One of them was John Clarke of Broughgammon, Ballycastle, County Antrim, now known all over the world, wherever agronomists study the potato. Even then he had made something of a success in selecting potato tubers to isolate healthy and high yielding strains. The other was another John—John Bankhead, a member of the then newly formed potato inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. In a long talk on their mutual interest they "talked the moon down the sky." John Bankhead suggested to John Clarke what was to make a tremendous difference to both their lives. He thought Clarke might find greater interest in trying to produce entirely new varieties.

That was the beginning.

Off John started with enthusiasm. He made his first crosses right away. The next year he planted out his new seed and watched the seedlings grow to maturity. He became absorbed. Though he didn't know it, he had found his life's work.

And work, indeed, it became for him. He studied unceasingly. He read all of the published work on plant breeding and genetics, and did all kinds of experimental field work, until he began to see the pattern, and the way opened up to successful achievement.

**I**T was not until 1935 that success came. That year his Ulster Monarch was introduced, a potato which the world authority Dr. W. D. Davidson, described as "the most promising variety raised in Ireland since the introduction of Rock about 100 years ago."

This heavy cropper was followed by a long series of remarkable successes. He named all his potatoes Ulster, and so carried the name of his native province round the world.

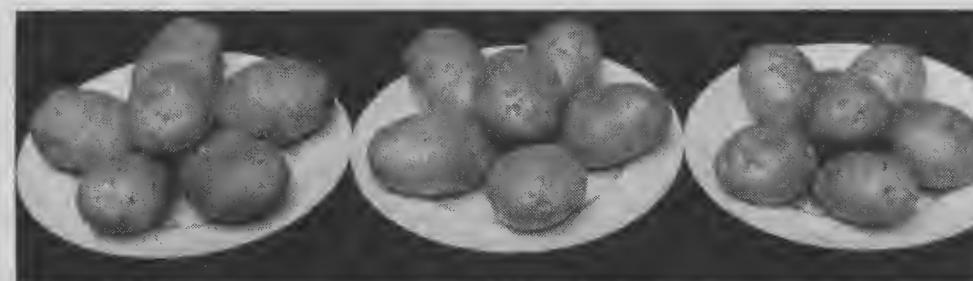
Ulster Chieftain followed in 1938, a variety which has given great satisfaction, especially in the south of England, where it is extensively grown for the early market, and whose low habit of growth allows of interplanting with other crops.

There followed Ulster Commerce and Ulster Earl in 1943; Ulster Crom-

lech in 1944; Ulster Premier in 1945, and Ulster Ensign in 1946.

Then in 1947 came Ulster Supreme, an outstanding success which won the coveted Derby Award. English experi-

To look around John Clarke's greenhouse at the appropriate time of year is to get a surprising insight into the wide-flung variety of his studies. Plants are there from everywhere.



*Three of his new varieties are (left to right) Ulster Knight, Ulster Beacon and Ulster Torch. All of them are high yielding with excellent table quality.*

ments show that there is no heavier cropper in the main crop group today. It is an ideally shaped tuber, with upstanding foliage well covered. For cooking it is all that can be desired in a main crop variety.

It was particularly fortunate that this potato was bought out by Mr. George Craig of Tullintrain, County Derry, a well-known, painstaking grower of seed potatoes, and by him was nurtured and brought to the commercial stage.

The year 1947 also saw Ulster Leader whilst 1948 brought Ulster Prince, that first of all first earlies, and Ulster Emblem. Ulster Dale came in 1950, and is considered by many to be the best shaped potato yet produced.

Then, John Clarke, feeling that high yields in themselves were only part of the problem, turned his attention to the development of disease resistance, and in 1955 introduced three new varieties, as the result of an astonishing series of crossings and testings.

Ulster Knight which is "field immune" to viruses X and A, Ulster Torch, which has a very high resistance to blight, both in tuber and foliage. Ulster Beacon, while not quite as disease resistant, has an astonishingly high yield and wonderfully shaped tubers. Also, from what I have been privileged to see and know of his present work, there are more good things to come.

Two yellow-fleshed varieties, Ulster Malta, worked out in collaboration with Dr. Carson of Cambridge, and Ulster Gozo, were introduced last year especially for the Mediterranean trade, where special characteristics are preferred—an example of breeding to a type of market.

He has an abiding interest in his work and a flair that is inborn. He is capable of being so absorbed in his work that for him, indeed, time stands still (ask Mrs. Clarke). But perhaps the secret of his achievement is that he does the work himself. It is personal. Without exception, all the experimental work is done with his own hands. He is his own gardener, his own note taker, and his own thinker.

I suppose more distinguished scientific thinkers have made the journey to the little white-walled house at Broughgammon, or later to the neat and modest farm at Glassaneeran, than could be named. Workers in the plant genetics field from all parts of the world have come to consult and see the work of John Clarke, and they are proud to name him friend.

In 1950 Queen's University, Belfast, bestowed upon him the highest honor in Agriculture that they could bestow—the degree of Master of Agriculture. It was universally approved. ✓

*Awarded many honors for outstanding potato breeding, John Clarke is never happier than when he is discussing new varieties with visitors out in the fields.*



# WHY NOT SHEEP

## *in the North?*

*A Big River, Saskatchewan, rancher suggests a method by which young farmers can start farming without much capital*

by C. E. CRADDOCK

Illustration by the author

**I** THINK most of us have heard the saying that opportunity knocks once at everyone's door. In Canada it seems to me that it knocks so often that it sounds like a woodpecker hammering on a fire-killed spruce. So much so, in fact, that we fail to recognize the knocking.

The trouble looks very much like too many looking for jobs, and too few looking for opportunities. Also, I have noticed an oft-repeated reason for so many young people leaving the farms. The reason given is that today it takes so much cash to buy the land and equipment that few, if any, have the wherewithal to start up as farmers. Now could it be that Johnny wants to start in where Dad left off? By that I mean, that they want to jump into a good farm with good buildings and a full line of machinery! This would be fine in any line if one had a rich uncle, or is friendly with a philanthropic bank manager. These elements, however, are so rare that they can be forgotten.

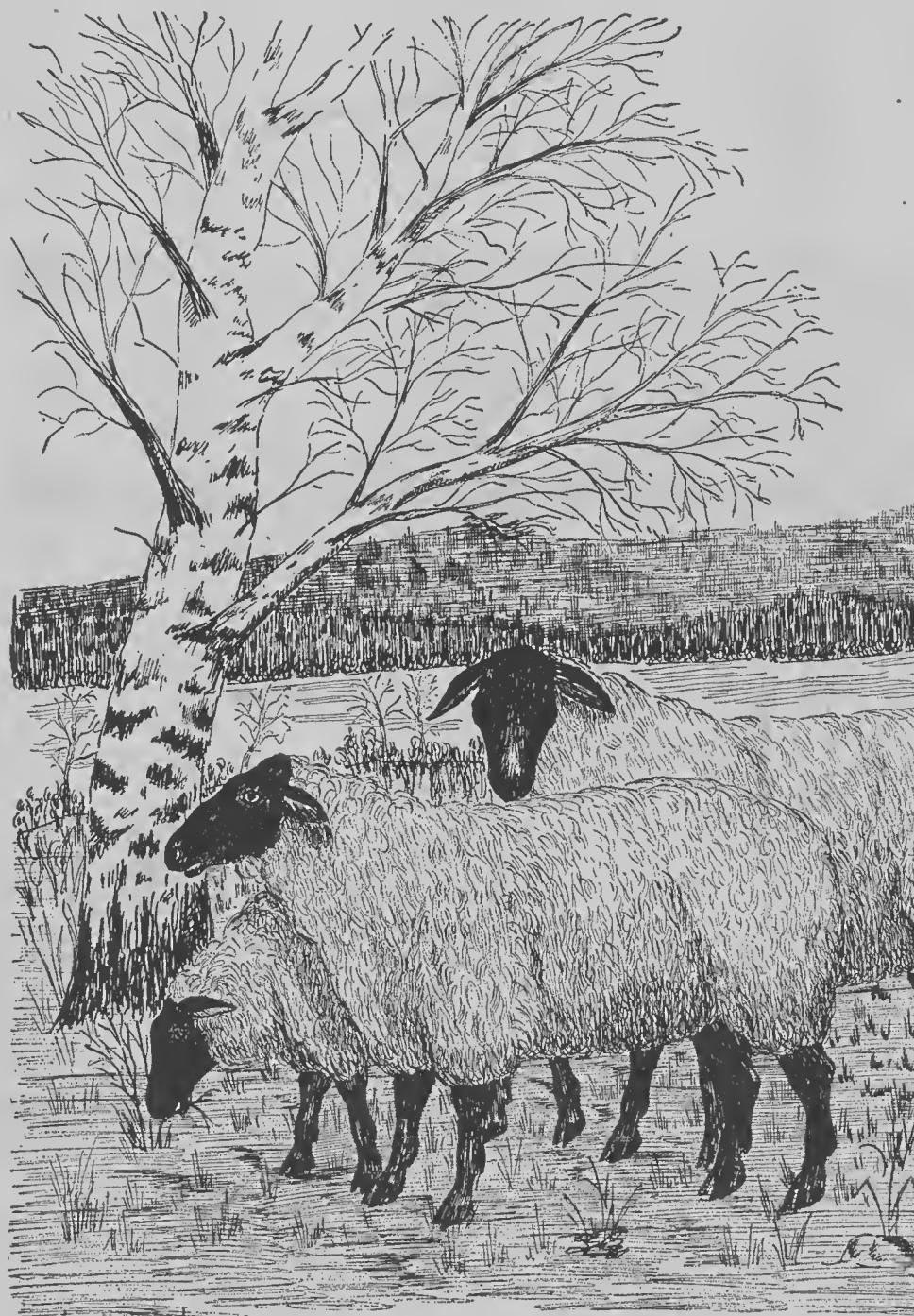
There is nothing wrong with starting on your own in a modest way. I am not going to put up an argument in favor of a wheat factory on the prairie. But why not go north and go in for mixed farming? The country is well adapted—or better still, start raising sheep. It is a comparatively easy and comfortable life, and not difficult to get started.

**F**IRST of all, there is the matter of choosing a location. There are numberless suitable locations in the north. Also, it does not take abundant capital to acquire necessary rights. A small area can be leased to start with, which can be increased, if, or when, required. This lease should be situated near good hay meadows. Buildings should be near water, preferably a lake or river, so that, in winter particularly, one has a plentiful water supply.

The buildings, corrals, and so on, do not need to be pretentious to start with. That can come later. Log buildings are both comfortable and cheap. There may even be a small sawmill in the neighborhood, where one can take logs and get them sawed into lumber.

If our embryo sheep rancher's funds will run to a small tractor, well and good. But with a team, a mower, rake, and walking plow for the garden, he can get by quite easily. This has been demonstrated in the past, and is still true today. In fact, we still use horses to put up our hay, and for hauling it home in the winter.

For many years our cattle, and later our sheep, got nothing but native hay and they did well. However, it pays to clear some land to raise oats for feed. A few oats through the winter



help the ewes to raise stronger and better lambs; and after weaning they put many more pounds on the lambs just before shipping.

It is a good idea to have at least one pasture ready before acquiring your sheep. Woven wire is no doubt the best, but costs too much. For our pastures we build rail fences. Some are snake fences made of fairly heavy poles. In other cases we use the double-post system, with light rails dropped in between the pairs of posts. We have, on occasion, built brush fences. These consist of brush and small trees piled in a row, thus forming a fence that will last for three or four years.

There are at least two good reasons for pole fences. First, they are cheap

from a cash point of view, and in many cases a fence can be run where the rails are growing, cutting and building them right into a fence. On the other hand, if you want to clear a few acres, this will provide rails, which, when they have served as a fence for a number of years, dry out and make good firewood, thus killing three birds with one stone. In this way one can increase the amount of pasture, and/or renew existing fences. If one can locate on a lake or river, this saves a lot of fencing, too—from one-third to one-half.

It looks like a lot of work to build a rail fence, but it is surprising how fast it goes; and it is also encouraging to see one's clearing getting bigger, at the same time. The cleared land, with

sheep running on it, gradually goes to grass, and the flock keeps the young poplars, willows and other brush from growing again.

**S**O far so good. Now for the initial flock of ewes. The number is governed by finances. It pays to shop around a bit, and also to watch ads in the farm papers. If one has had no experience with sheep, get a friend, or someone who knows his sheep, to help select your flock. In starting, it is better to get good stuff, even if you have to be satisfied with a smaller bunch. But in any case, if you can't get the best, grade ewes, with registered rams, improve very quickly. When selecting ewes see that they have their full complement of teeth. Also examine their udders to see if they have two normal teats. In many cases a careless clipper will shear a nipple off and say nothing, so make sure that the lamb's source of sustenance is complete.

There is a variety of opinion as to the breed. We started with Leicesters. They have a good fleece, but seem to fall down on the weight of lambs. Then we switched to Southdown rams; a nice compact animal, and a good rustler, but too small. Then we tried Hampshires, followed by Oxfords, and got some really nice lambs. We found, however, that with their woolly faces, their eyes frosted up badly in the winter and we were forever having to clip the wool away. Finally, we decided on Suffolks. They have a nice, clean, black face, and are alert and easy keepers. Our Suffolk lambs always fetched good prices.

The reasons I am strong for sheep are as follows: It does not take much cash to get a start. They need a minimum of attention, as compared with hogs. One has, of course, to give them close attention and care during lambing, which lasts about three weeks. Another strong point is that the lamb crop comes in the spring, and they are ready for market in late summer, or early fall, though the earlier markets are generally best. There is no wintering over as with cattle: only the breeding ewes have to be fed over the winter. Another point is the wool crop, which is almost clear profit, and comes when you can generally find use for it. We always ship our wool to the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, and get good satisfaction.

As to the cost of sires, the price of rams compares favorably with the price of bulls, proportionately. Then, too, if I pay \$500 for a bull and something happens to him, it is just too bad. For much less than \$500 one can get an equivalent number of rams and the risk of sickness or accidents is spread over a larger number.

(Please turn to page 47)

# Evisceration ... New Style

*New up-to-date plant in Vancouver puts style into marketing for the B.C. turkey growers*

by ISABEL M. REEKIE

**T**URKEY growers in British Columbia can now market their turkeys when they are ready, instead of having to hold them back and spend extra for feed, as they had to in the past, until a few weeks before Christmas.

Visco Poultry Packing Ltd. is western Canada's largest and most modern poultry eviscerating plant. It is capable of handling a major part of the total poultry marketed in British Columbia, and gives the growers assurance that they can take poultry at any time of the year.

"We have been killing turkeys since July," said W. K. Gee, production manager. Mr. Gee explained that large hatcheries and big poultry growers in the Fraser Valley are co-operating fully with Visco.

"We do custom work at the producer's request," said Mr. Gee. "We kill, say, in July and put in storage. The 'live' price is settled at Thanksgiving time. This applies particularly to turkeys. Broilers and fryers come in all year round."

The fine up-to-date Vancouver plant had its beginning in 1950, when Lou King, a young Canadian-born Chinese, invested his DVA credits in a small eviscerating poultry-packing plant.

Today, valued at a quarter of a million dollars, Visco has three important firsts in British Columbia to its credit: the first to pioneer packaged poultry; the first to employ assembly line technique in processing and packaging; the first poultry and processing plant to operate under continuous Federal Government inspection.

Watching a run of turkey hens go through the plant at the rate of more than 400 an hour, gives one an impressive idea of the strides made in the past five years.

"Previously," said Lou King, general manager, "it would have been a good day's work just to de-feather 400 birds."

The present speed is considered the fastest ever attained in Canada, and the maximum possible for efficient operation, and inspection by the two government veterinarians who spend all their time at the plant. There is also a lay inspector.

It's because of this inspection that every eviscerated, or pan-ready, bird packed bears the round blue-label "Canada Approved" stamp on its wrapper. Since moving into the new plant the company has become the only poultry eviscerating packing plant in British Columbia authorized to use this stamp.

**B**ORN in Alberta, Lou King came to Vancouver while very young, and received his education here. Described as shrewd, persevering and always happy, he has the dynamic personality people instinctively like and respect. With a natural ability for taking on any project, at 19 he was managing an importing and exporting company. His ability for leadership made him a valuable member of the Canadian Volunteers for espionage operation behind enemy lines in British North Borneo in World War II. Lou won't talk about his war record and few people know that he was decorated for distinguished service.

When he commenced his initial plant five years ago, Lou worked day and night. He'd do his bookkeeping after his staff left, then he'd wash the eviscerating plant ready for the next day. He's much the same today. He eats, sleeps, and lives work. He's on the day shift, on the night shift, fixing this and that, seeing to his staff's com-

fort and the smooth running of his business.

Since moving to its new plant on October 1, 1954, production has increased to such an extent that a double shift was started earlier in 1955, which meant that there were over 60 on the production line.

Additional machines have been installed, among them a new 15-foot reverse turkey plucker. Also installed is a new machine for removing lungs and kidneys by a vacuum withdrawal. This has speeded up the line substantially.

Conducted tours of the plant have become very popular with various women's organizations and church groups. These tours are by request, or invitation, and consist of a complete tour of the plant when it is operating. From the consumer point of view these tours are very instructive, and since they are in demand two or three times a month, have had to be spaced.

Mr. King has a thoroughly competent staff. W. K. Gee, production manager, is a graduate of the University of B.C. Mr. Gee left Vancouver in 1947 to be an assistant in bacteriology at Shanghai Medical College, returning to Vancouver when the communists occupied Shanghai. He entered the then young firm as field co-ordinator and research adviser. Plant superintendent Hyme Lipkin had 25 years' experience in the poultry field as buyer, grader and plant foreman before coming to Visco.

Because he feels that he has to overcome a certain amount of resistance by the public to Chinese management and ownership, Lou King feels he has to do things just a little better than anyone else. He has done everything the government has asked, down to the last detail. Although it entailed the spending of a large amount of money, only the most scientific and hygienic stainless steel equipment is used.

**F**ROM the killing with an electric knife, right through the automatic de-feathering, wing-stripping, washing, and singeing operations by rubber-fingered machines, the birds are not touched by hand. They travel on an endless assembly line, water gushing through them at each step. Travelling through an eight-foot tunnel, they get a final, thorough scrubbing as 1,200 long rubber fingers rock back and forth while water pours around and over them, the equivalent of 6,000 individual scrubings. This removes 90 per cent of the bacteria—an amazingly high proportion for anything exposed to air.



*Mrs. Doris Lawson works on the "assembly line" in the evisceration plant.*

When they are moved to the evisceration line, head, feet, windpipe, crop, intestines and internal organs are still attached. One of the two full-time veterinarians now takes a good look into the cavity and inspects the organs for signs of imperfections, or disease. His trained eye can spot defects even an experienced breeder or processor couldn't recognize. The whole operation will stop, if he finds anything amiss and presses a button behind him. At the end of each day, one of the veterinarians personally sees that any condemned bird is taken to the boiler room and burned. It is a tribute to British Columbia turkey and chick growers that not many birds are rejected.

Now the perfect birds are ready for packaging and freezing. Head and feet are chopped off and main tendons removed. Their neatly washed and wrapped giblets are put inside, but not before the gizzards are "peeled" in an automatic Skinner.

After evisceration, the birds are packed in ice to remove all animal heat, and are then ready for packaging. Turkeys, ducks, geese, roasting chickens, and capons are packaged whole in Cry-o-vac plastic bags.

**F**OUR steps are involved in this scientific packaging.

The bird is placed in a loose-fitting transparent Cry-o-vac bag and its weight is marked on the outside. Riding a hygienic neoprene belt, it goes into a vacuum machine which draws out all air. The bag is sealed with a Cry-o-vac clip. Finally, it spends four seconds in the shrink-tunnel in a steam-controlled temperature of 187 degrees.

When it emerges, the seamless bag forms a second skin that locks in all flavor and tender juiciness. The bird is completely protected from the dry-

*(Please turn to page 81)*



*This evisceration plant in British Columbia handles turkeys on a mass-production basis. The picture shows the finishing and packaging section.*

# A Matter of Horse Sense



*It was nice to walk in the afternoon sun with someone as young, fresh and understanding as this girl was.*

GRAMP said goodbye to Gran, kissing her even more tenderly than usual because he knew she was feeling just as upset as he was.

"I hope they'll be kind to him," she said, and she put up a thin rather shaky hand and rubbed Roanie's nose, and he nuzzled toward her as he always did.

"I'm sure," Gramp said, "Joe Carney will look after him well. He was very fond of the horse."

"It's the children," Gran worried. "Will they know how to treat Roanie?"

"Now don't you fret," Gramp said, but not feeling too comfortable about it himself. He couldn't help remembering the two or three times Joe had brought his family for a brief visit to the farm, and the squawking and the fluttering and the grunting they'd managed to start up. He climbed into the old rig for the last time, and gave a little flourish of the whip to show Gran he was going to be able to carry this off all right, though he'd hardly slept a wink all night.

Driving slowly toward town, letting Roanie set his own place, Gramp reflected with a sigh that things certainly do change. He couldn't blame the younger folk of his family for wanting him and Gran to sell the farm now it had become too much of a burden; and the two pleasant rooms that he and Gran now occupied at Mrs. Culver's were at the edge of the village where at least they could look over open fields, and a pasture and the blue ridge of hills beyond, which they had known all their

lives. He and Gran figured that with what they'd saved, and their old age pensions they'd just make out. But no matter how they worked it over they couldn't see how they could afford to keep Roanie, even though the children were generous at Christmas and on birthdays—the only times when he and Gran would think of accepting money. They had their own families too, and what with new babies, and doctors' bills and all. It was not right to expect help in this matter. And then Joe Carney came along with an offer to buy Roanie and keep him at his country place. "There you are, Roanie," Gramp told the old horse, when he heard, "there's a good home for you, fellow!"

Roanie just turned and gave Gramp a long, steady look, as much as to say, "Try that one on someone else." Gramp always said Roanie could express as much with a look, and perhaps a curl of his lip, as most people could with half the words in the dictionary.

WHEN the smoke of the town began to mush-room ahead of them, Roanie's pace slackened still more. He showed a kind of limp of the off-hind foot he affected when he wasn't enjoying a trip. Once or twice he turned and looked back at Gramp reproachfully.

"It's not that I want to do this, Roanie," Gramp said. "You should know that." Roanie's limp became even more noticeable. It was only when they got into the town and became part of the glitter of

*It seemed like Roanie knew that today was to be the last drive with Gramp behind him—that this was "goodbye." The horse, never at a loss in the glitter of town traffic, treated it with aristocratic scorn and aloofness. Today Roanie was to achieve local fame*

by LESLIE GORDON BARNARD

traffic that Roanie remembered whence he had sprung, and perked up, holding his head up, regarding the most streamlined product of the motor car industry with aristocratic aloofness and scorn. Roanie was never at a loss in traffic, Gramp thought that if some of the folk had a bit more horse sense, it'd be a deal better. Gramp hardly needed to draw a rein because Roanie knew where they always landed; at the market square, where a broad avenue ran down toward the main intersections.

Pulling up on the edge of the crowded market square, Gramp got stiffly down, told Roanie he wouldn't be so very long, and crossed past where the trucks and a few country rigs had assembled, having been there since dawn and being now mostly sold out. Often he'd come here with Gran. When they'd done their selling it would feel good to take time out and go over—as they usually did—for a latish snack at Pinner's restaurant. Afterwards, like enough, they'd window-shop and maybe buy Gran something she'd set her eye on and that it delighted Gramp to insist she buy, Gran protesting that they really mustn't but knowing all the time he meant her to have it. Or they would purchase some necessities for the farm. But now, of course, all that was over.

FEELING suddenly old and more than a bit tired, Gramp made his way through a scene of which he was no longer, nor could ever be again, an actual part, and turned into Pinner's.

The place wasn't as it would have been earlier. He found an empty cubicle and sat down. Afternoon sunshine was pouring down on the girl at the cashier's desk thumbing over bills, and parcelling up silver, and Gramp thought how young and pretty she looked with her fair hair and bright complexion. Gran would tease him when he told her.

A man came in, looked around and settled for the empty seat opposite Gramp.

"Mind if I sit here?" he asked.

"No," Gramp said. "Sit right down." In fact he rather welcomed company other than his own thoughts. He couldn't help wondering how Gran was getting along all alone in the still unfamiliar quarters at Mrs. Culver's; and he knew, too, she'd be wondering and worrying about him. So much of their lives they'd done everything together that they could almost read each other's thoughts. First thing he knew, he was telling the man some of the things that were troubling him, and all about Roanie.

"You never saw a more intelligent animal," Gramp said, "and, well, kind of sensitive, if you know what I mean. Seems like he knew today it was his last drive with me behind him. Seems like he almost knew when he said goodbye to Gran. Kind of dragged his

(Please turn to page 57)

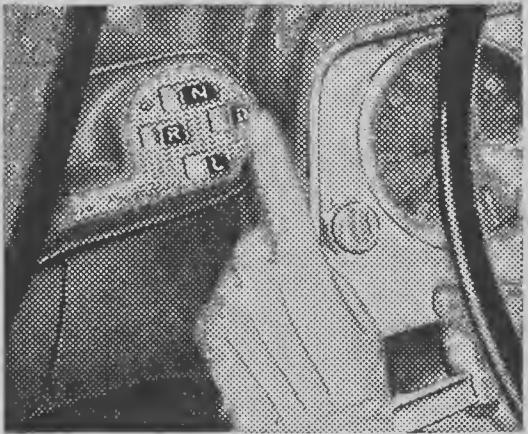
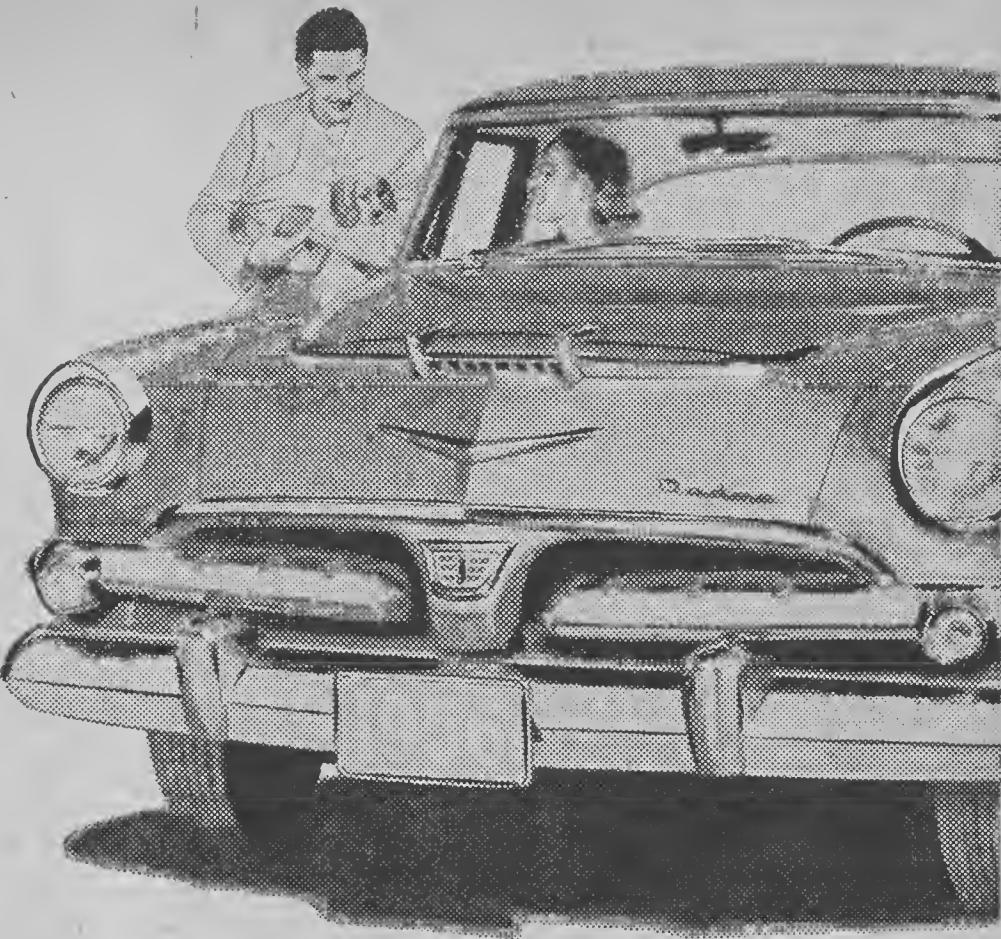


Illustrated by J. H. Petrie

# '56

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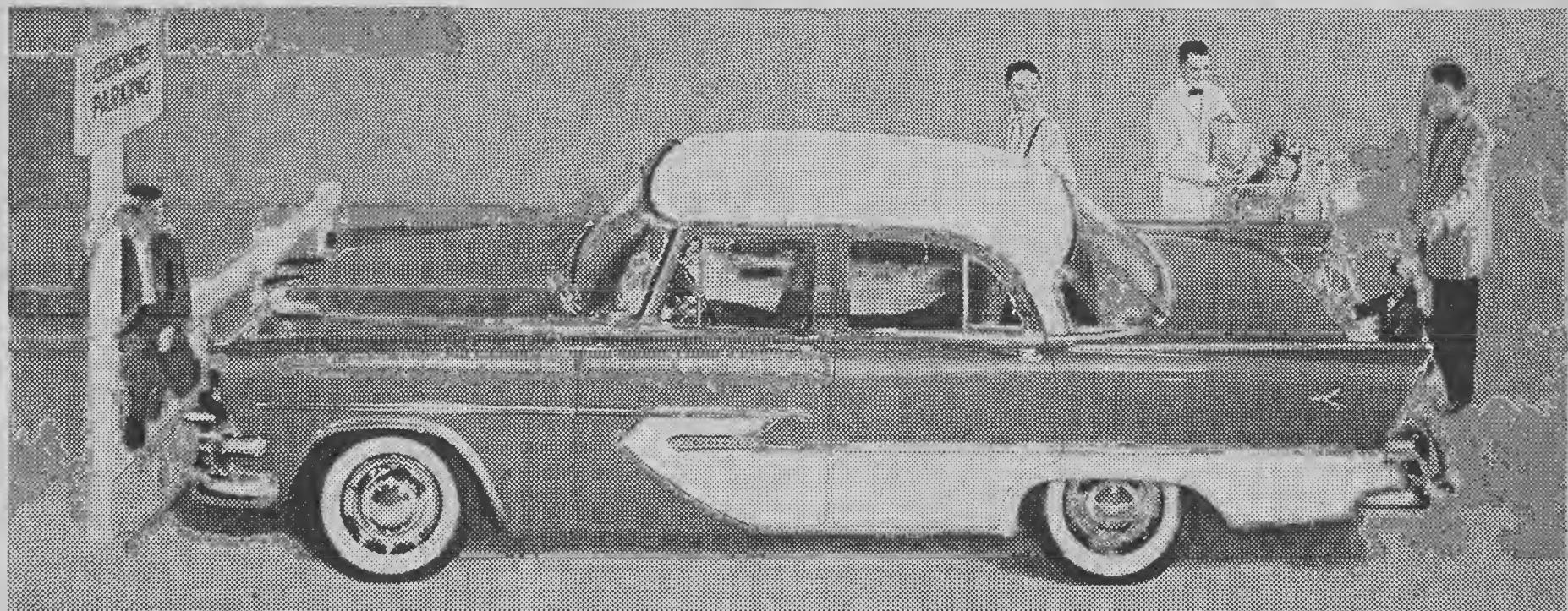
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## Policy Statement From O.F.A. Conference

*Largely attended marketing conference approves a general marketing policy statement*

**A**n unusual event took place in mid-March, in Toronto, which may also possess unusual significance. It was a farm marketing conference called by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to give emphasis to, and to test farm opinion in the province as to the importance of the farm marketing problem. About 1,500 were in attendance on the second day, when discussion terminated in a fairly lengthy and comprehensive policy statement.

The Conference was directly traceable to what has been called the price squeeze, which has been shrinking net farm incomes in Canada with increasing force since 1951. The statement received unanimous endorsement, and expresses, in relatively modest terms, points of view which were put forward with much vigor and emphasis during the Conference by virtually all of the speakers. It follows below:

"In looking to marketing as one means of stabilizing and improving farm product prices, this meeting recognizes that such a program cannot be carried out effectively, if farmers themselves, as well as the provincial and federal governments, do not meet certain responsibilities.

"This meeting is of the opinion that, more specifically, these responsibilities are as follows:

**Federal Government.** We request legislation, if such is necessary, to assure farmers that they can carry forward their marketing programs in both the national and international fields, and that their marketing boards will enjoy full rights to make deductions for services and for stabilization funds. We also request the establishment of non-incentive floor prices, based on a known formula, as set out by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture policy for farm products.

**Provincial Government.** We ask that assurance be given to Ontario farmers that there will be an improvement in the administration of Ontario's agricultural marketing legislation. We request a new portfolio—a marketing and co-operation department. To achieve this improvement, we request that this new department be established in the near future, with emphasis, not on production, but on marketing.

"We compliment the provincial government for its marketing legislation and for the assurance that if, and when, further provincial legislation is necessary, it will be granted.

"In order to make it practical and democratically possible to secure an expression of opinion from our producers of any one commodity, we request a new formula and system for taking evaluation of producer opinion by a marketing vote.

**Ontario farm organizations.** This conference refers the following resolutions to the Ontario commodity groups, and to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, for their consideration and immediate action:

"1. To recognize that only we can solve our problems. To recognize that organization and collective marketing are real and lasting means toward the solution of our current situation.

"2. To maintain unity within the ranks of our farm organizations, and to press on with vigor and vision toward the establishment of better and more extensive farm products marketing programs within the province.

"3. To ask the O.F.A. to set up a marketing department which, in co-operation with the commodity groups, could develop a progressive and master marketing program.

"4. To launch a co-operative sales program, wherein Ontario commodity groups, through their own salesmen, will vigorously sell farm products in the United Kingdom and other world markets; and to ask the federal and provincial governments also to take some leadership in increasing current efforts to extend our markets for farm products.

"5. To recognize that the only type of government agricultural policy that can be effective is one that is comprehensive and which takes into account all aspects of our Canadian agricultural economy. We recommend that the federal government give immediate consideration to the establishment of a granary program, involving outright purchase of sufficient western grain to lessen the danger that western farmers will market their unsold grain through hogs and other livestock. Grain is a more easily stored commodity than meat.

"6. To press our universities, colleges and departments of education to recognize our needs in respect to trained men equipped to assist us in giving further momentum to our marketing programs.

"7. To seek ways and means of increasing research in the field of marketing, so that a pool of information on this subject of commodity marketing may be made available to our farm leaders as they push forward our marketing program.

"8. To recognize fully the value of publicity in our marketing programs and to co-operate in a publicity program designed to keep our commodity groups informed, to keep the public in general informed, and to meet intelligently, criticisms which might appear from time to time in the press and on the radio.

"9. We urge that a national commodity marketing conference be called in the near future to consider the points raised at this provincial conference and to take action.

"10. That a summary of the main points established at this meeting be made immediately available to our commodity groups and our County Federation executives." V

# Under the Peace Tower

by HUGH BOYD

**M**INNESOTA is close enough to the Canadian West—especially Manitoba—that an event such as the recent Democratic primary would naturally attract a good deal of interest on this side of the border. As far as this particular event is concerned, the interest was pretty keen at Ottawa, too. Quite apart from the fortunes of this or that candidate for a presidential nomination, one aspect of the campaign in Minnesota has left a number of people here quite thoughtful. (And at Washington considerably more so.)

This was the contrasting attitudes of the two principals toward United States agricultural policy. Adlai Stevenson seems to have said, in effect, that maybe 90 per cent of parity was all right, but it wasn't the answer to the farm problem. His opponent from the South, Senator Estes Kefauver, seems to have said that 100 per cent of parity was the answer, and he was for it.

There were several other factors in the primary, of course, but there seems little doubt that what Senator Kefauver had to say was pleasing to a good many Minnesota farmers, including those of the Republican persuasion, who, under the rules, were able to register their opinions in a Democrat show. At any rate, Mr. Stevenson, with everyone on his side but the people, was soundly trimmed.

A day or two before this, President Eisenhower said at one of his press conferences, without hunting for soft words, that a bill approved by the Senate that would lead to higher farm price supports "is not a good bill." It would, in his opinion, "bury farmers under surpluses they couldn't stand, and it would break prices still further."

So here are the President and his antagonist of 1952, displaying not unlike views, on one of the great issues of the coming campaign. If the business in Minnesota is any test, American farmers don't think much of the views of either of them.

The interest apparent on Parliament Hill at Ottawa is two-fold. Senator Kefauver may not be going anywhere in particular, politically, but he has strengthened the hands of those, in both major American parties, who are opposed to the administration efforts to substitute a flexible price support policy for a rigid one, or at least to one that loads the dice in favor of high supports. And so, if an emboldened Congress were to override the administration policy, what happens to the basic crops, including wheat? Are bigger surpluses to be piled up, with quality a secondary consideration, and with a super give-away program to follow?

**T**HAT is one point that government and opposition alike at Ottawa can hardly overlook. The other is that the developments across the line are likely to spur the campaign for higher price supports on this side of the border. It is being said, already, that if American farmers, with a formula that looks to some Canadians almost like the end of the rainbow, are less



better off than most of their countrymen, what of the much less generous Canadian plan of price supports?

The Canadian plan, after all, is a stop-loss proposition. It contains no "parity" formula. It contains no known formula of any kind, a fact that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, otherwise not too unfriendly to past procedures, deprecates. If there was any flexible price support policy, it's the policy now being administered under the Agricultural Prices Support Act. No producer of any product knows at any time exactly where he stands, except that in a general way he is led to believe that the chances are better than even that he won't be left to go broke before he has a chance to try some other line of endeavor.

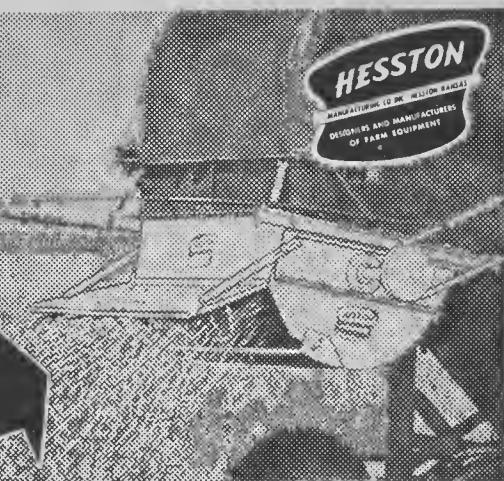
Even before the Minnesota Democratic primary, the issue of parity prices was raised in the Canadian House of Commons in the shape of want-of-confidence amendments introduced in turn by the Conservative and C.C.F. parties. The succeeding debate was probably notable for a nearly two-hour effort by the minister of agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, who hasn't done too well this session, what with his alterations to Hansard and his bushels for immigrants idea, and other things. Besides, Mr. Gardiner had been frequently mentioned in support of the theory that the present government is old and losing its grip.

On that occasion the minister gave Liberal back-benchers more to cheer about, than perhaps at any time this session. Most of the time—including the recent budget—they have had not too much to cheer about. But they liked how he used both internal and external sources (the CFA and Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson of the United States) to reply to the charge that present policy is ineffective. With obvious relish he drew on Mr. Benson's speech at Regina last summer:

"We are paying you the high compliment of imitation. Your government has long devoted far more attention to the quality of your wheat going into the foreign market than we have. Most of your agricultural controls, likewise, are designed to encourage quality production, rather than to limit output. We hope now at long last to move in this same direction."

But not, apparently, if the well-wishers of Senator Kefauver, and of others who speak his language, can help it. □

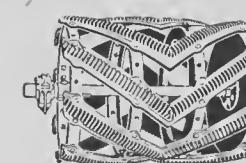
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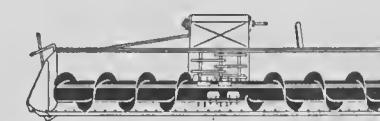
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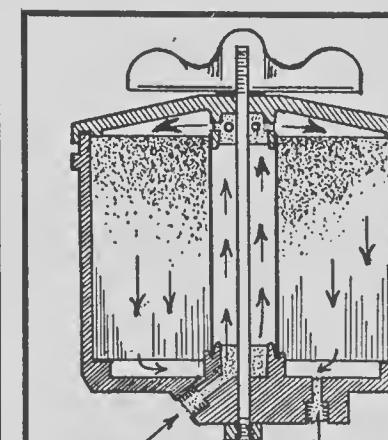
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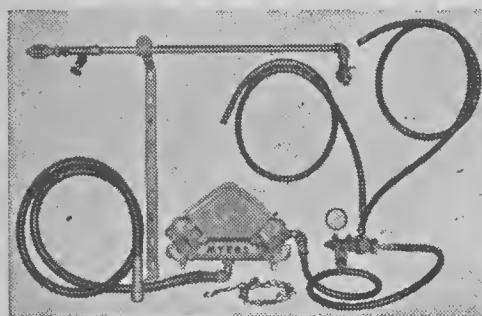
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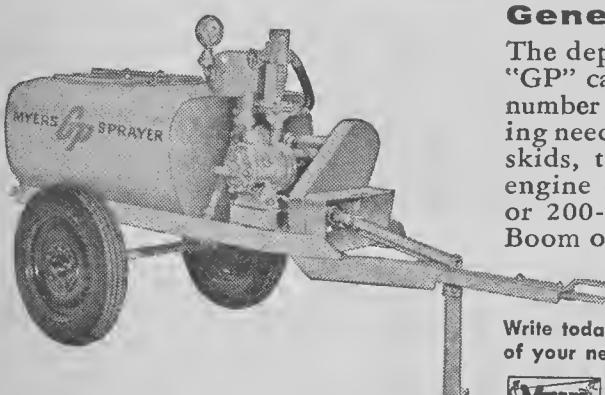


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## GET IT AT A GLANCE

### World Farm Reports in Brief

A rust-resistant barley, known as Parkland, has been licensed by the Canada Department of Agriculture for general distribution next fall. It is said to give higher yields, better weight and better straw than Montcalm, the current malting variety. V

The United Kingdom Fatstock Marketing Corporation, a producers' marketing organization sponsored by the National Farmers' Union, had a gross turnover of \$288 million and a profit of \$316,000 before taxes in its first year of operation, which ended in April, 1955. V

Canadian Co-operative Implements Ltd. increased sales by 14 per cent to \$3,083,000 in 1955, compared with 1954. V

Russian farming will concentrate on improvement of quality and yield per acre under the new five-year plan. Expansion of farm land in the east will virtually cease this year. V

Great Britain is expected to be free of bovine tuberculosis within ten years, says J. N. Ritchie, chief veterinary officer of the Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture. V

The Canadian ban on stilbestrol will be lifted, but it will be strictly controlled, according to Rt. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture. The drug, which is a sex hormone stimulant added to livestock feed to make them grow more rapidly, has been found to produce no ill effect on steers or on the finished product, if fed in limited quantities. V

World coffee production of 46.5 million bags in 1955-56 is forecast by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. A bag weighs about 132 pounds. Brazil will produce 22 million bags out of the total. V

Agricultural Civil Defence to guard against biological warfare on livestock is advocated by E. E. Ballantyne, director of veterinary services, Alberta Department of Agriculture. He claims that livestock diseases spread by biological warfare could have just as bad an effect as the hydrogen bomb. V

More food for the hungry millions of the world was the chief aim of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the outset. The emphasis is now on productivity per man, per acre and per unit of cost. It is hoped that increasing efficiency will mean lower food prices, higher consumption, and increased farm income. V

U.S. beef herd breeding potential is on the downgrade for the first time since 1948, says the president of the American National Cattlemen's Association. Beef cows and yearling heifers dropped by 122,000 head on January 1. V

The value of field crops produced in Canada during 1955 is estimated at \$1.56 billion, based on average prices received by farmers from August, 1955, to the end of January, 1956. This includes initial payments only on

western wheat, oats and barley. The 1954 total was \$1.24 billion, but this included total payments on all grains except wheat. V

One acre out of every ten planted in the United States is lost annually to insect damage, according to the Twentieth Century Fund. V

Flood warning stations, placed near the larger streams in Saskatchewan, will give residents several days notice of the extent of flooding which might occur, if the need arises this spring. V

The "Dinkum Digger," which is a mobile machine for trenching, excavating and channel cleaning at reduced cost, is proving successful in Australia. It can cut a trench nine feet deep and two feet wide at 32 yards an hour. V

Canadian wheat acreage will be reduced by 700,000 acres this year, according to reports reaching the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This would make the total, 20.8 million acres, the lowest in 13 years. V

Manitoba will have three new alfalfa dehydration plants in operation this year at Winnipeg, Rivers and Lac du Bonnet. At least one of them will have new crop alfalfa ready for market by June. V

Protein substances extracted from lima bean plants have been found to combine with certain red blood cells and make them stick together, which may lead to their use for blood grouping. If lima bean chemicals can be made to work on a practical scale, they will be able to replace human blood serum, which is expensive and often hard to get. V

Safflower production is being encouraged in Western Australia. The oil is used for paints and varnishes, instead of linseed. After the oil has been extracted, it has been found that the seeds give 38 per cent protein and seven per cent fat. This is a valuable supplement for pigs, cattle and sheep. V

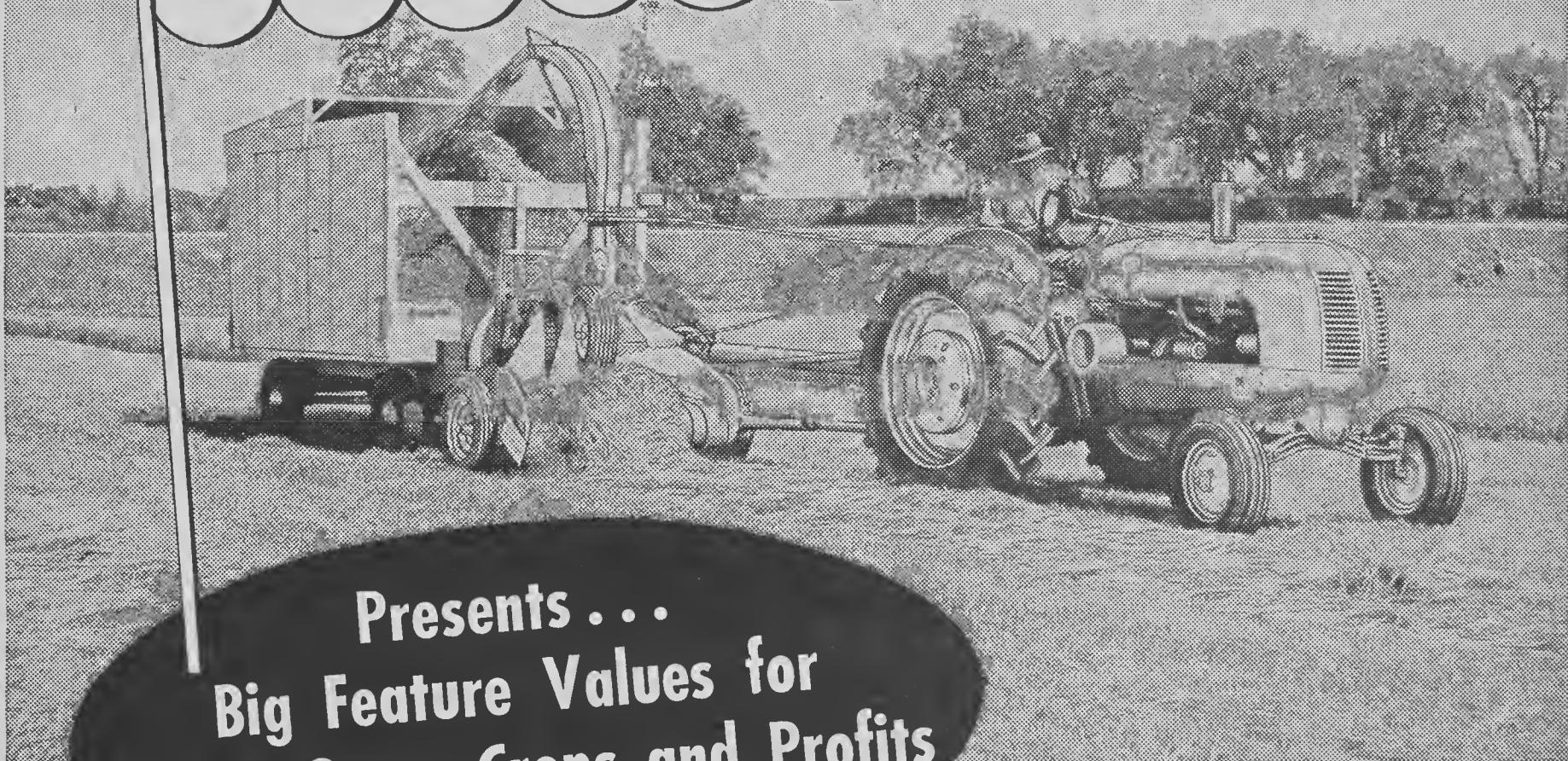
Life insurance totalling \$70,250,000 in force at the end of 1955 was reported recently by the Co-operative Life Insurance Company. The Company has practically doubled its life insurance business in the past four years. V

Dutch scientists have found a method for mixing acid fruit juices with milk to make a colorful pasteurized drink. The secret is the use of pectin to protect the milk molecules and prevent them from coagulating. V

Butter price supports will be continued in Canada for another two years, with the present government purchase price unchanged at 58 cents a pound. Stocks of creamery butter in nine principal Canadian cities totalled 48,235,000 pounds on March 15, or 21 per cent more than last year. V

Bacon smoking and curing is reduced to a few days by new processes in the United States. The bacon passes through a tunnel, where smoke is attracted to it by electrostatic processes. Pickle is injected into the meat under pressure. V

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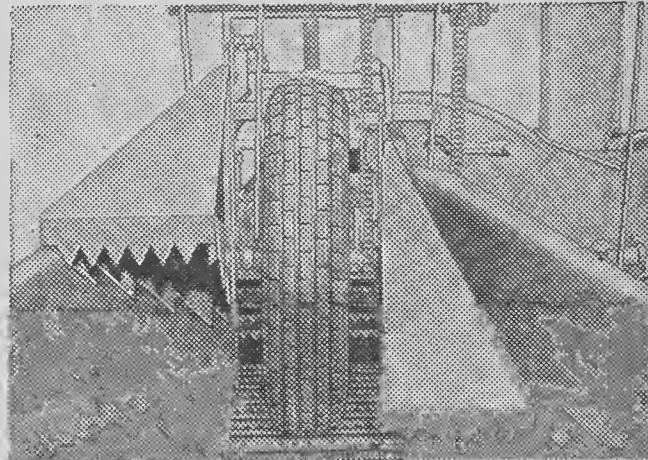
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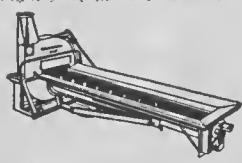
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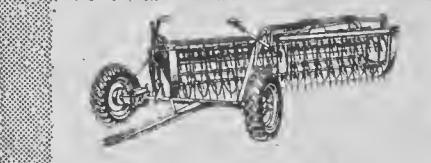


A specially treaded, free-running hold-down wheel presses material against the feed apron. Skilfully engineered feeder arms operate almost like human hands in alternately sweeping the crop evenly and continuously back to the scissors-action cutters.

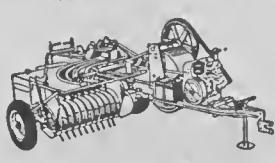
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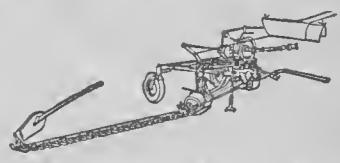
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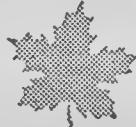


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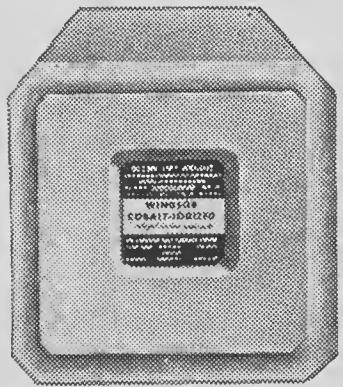
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"IODIZED TO THE LAST LICK"

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## LIVESTOCK



[Univ. Sask. photo.]

Enteritis and scours (left) might have been prevented by good feeding and an antibiotic. The thrifty hog (right) had a practical ration and supplement.

### Stop Those Livestock Robbers

WHILE profit margins on livestock are slim, it is more important than ever to cut losses to a minimum, and good management is a large part of the answer. The Canada Department of Agriculture estimates that disease, parasites and injury in 1955 robbed cattle, hog and sheep producers of at least \$18,000,000, which is equal to a slump of \$2 per hundred in the price of hogs for a year.

Livestock and carcasses which are condemned, and those dead on arrival at packing plants, account for a substantial loss, but more than half of the total last year, about \$11 million, is believed to have been caused on farms through unthrifty, poor-doing animals.

The first line of attack is proper feeding. A well-balanced diet will go a long way toward providing resistance to disease and parasites. However, even under the best management, some diseases are bound to occur, and then prompt isolation and treatment are the best ways to reduce the loss. A wide choice of drugs, improved techniques and better sanitation are three potent weapons in both the prevention and cure of disease, provided that the feeding is right.

Parasites cause severe losses by making livestock unthrifty. Warbles, lice and ticks can be controlled by spraying, dusting and dipping; flies can be controlled in the pasture and feedlot; drenching or pilling at the beginning and end of the pasture season will help to rid sheep of internal parasites; and vermifuges in a dry feed will cut down round worm infestations in hogs. All these methods, though they cost time and money, can put bigger profits into the farmer's pocket.

Injury to animals through careless handling, leads to the destruction each year of enough meat to supply 50,000 Canadians for a year. Dehorning, the use of slappers instead of clubs, proper loading and avoidance of crowding, protection from heat and cold, and patience in handling livestock will help to reduce bruising, injury and death. V

### Two Ways To Select Hogs

USING two herds of Yorkshires, Brandon Experimental Farm, Manitoba, began an experiment last spring to compare methods of selecting hogs for breeding. Sixty litters were farrowed between April 25 and June 24, and although the effects of

selections cannot be known until later this year, some interesting results have been obtained.

The outbred pigs performed exceptionally well, with an average weaning weight of 39.2 pounds at eight weeks, and an average finishing weight of 199.6 pounds in 164 days, producing 60 per cent grade A carcasses. Inbred hogs from one herd had a good average weaning weight of 35 pounds, and produced 62.5 per cent grade A, but needed 192 days to reach a finishing weight of 197.2 pounds. Another inbred group, with a weaning weight of 30 pounds, made 198.5 pounds in 174 days, but graded only 12.5 per cent grade A. The highest percentage of grade A carcasses, 72.7, came from an outcross group, which finished at 197.6 pounds in 174 days. All the test pigs were fed according to Advanced Registry station regulations.

Selections on the basis of performance in one herd, and by visual appearance in the other, were made last fall. The first pigs from selected stock will be born this spring. V

### Stamp of Quality For Good Shorthorns

SHORTHORN cattle breeders can now get an official stamp of approval for animals in their herds, through a type-classification program that was initiated by the Canadian Shorthorn Association last summer. Reported to be the first such scheme for beef cattle in North America, it is designed to provide a further measure of an animal's worth. In effect, it will assist those breeders who do not exhibit at major livestock shows, to gain some recognition if their cattle are good enough. H. Stoltz, fieldman for the Association, says that such a program can give some recognition and value to the good, sound producing cows that stay at home in the herd.

This program was approved in principle at the annual meeting of the Association in 1954, and at that time, a committee was set up to bring it into practice. The committee drew up a scorecard, guided by suggestions from such a variety of experts as ranchers, breeders, steer feeders, packinghouse representatives, and college authorities, and then tried it out on a few herds experimentally. It was approved and offered to breeders last summer.

Several herds have been classified in eastern Ontario, and the program is ready to go in western Canada as well. Any breeder can apply to the

Association to have his herd classified, and the costs are \$2 per head, with a minimum cost, on any one call, of \$10.

Breeders who do not exhibit at shows can gain special value from the program, for it can give them a recognized standard of quality, which they can advertise, even though they lack grand championship ribbons from the show-ring. Cows cannot be classified until they have produced at least one normal calf, and cannot get top rating until they have produced two normal calves. Bulls must be two years of age before being classified. This is intended to ensure that the animals are the healthy, hard-working kind that can make a profit for their owners. The six grades that have been set up are: AAA, AA, A, B, C, and D. V

## More Wool From Better Feeding

THE growth of wool can be affected by breeding; type of feed, age, disease and climate, according to results obtained at the Lethbridge Experimental Farm, Alberta. The wool fiber develops from a depression in the skin, known as the follicle, and at that point is formed as living tissue. Therefore, the inherited characteristics of sheep, and their general condition, have a definite bearing on the result.

Range types of sheep normally produce heavier fleeces than the Down breeds, but the rate of growth is directly related to the amount of feed available. It was found at Lethbridge that an increase of seven to ten per cent in the protein content of the ration for a ewe increased raw wool production 16 per cent. This resulted from longer staples and thicker fibers.

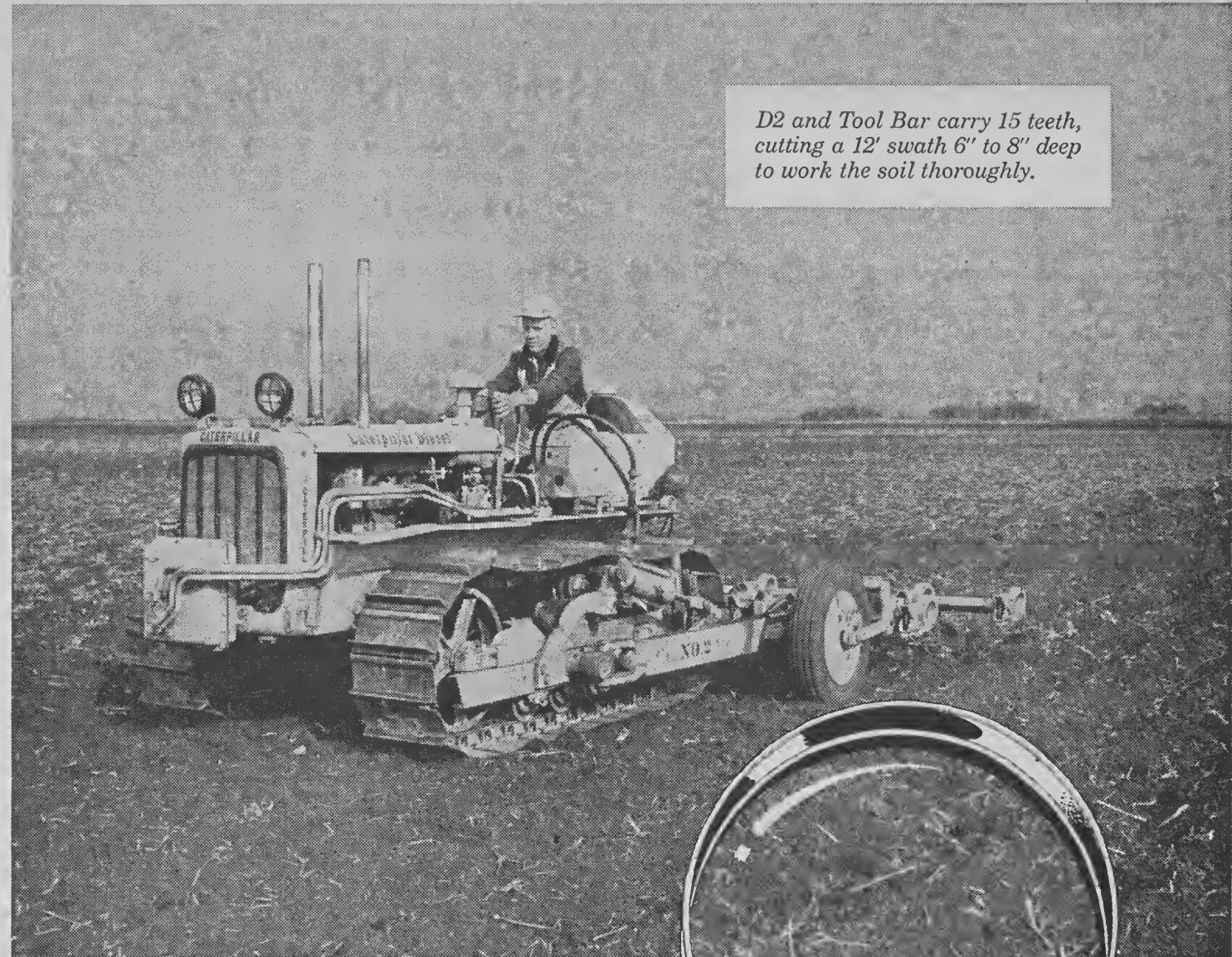
It was shown at the University of California that sheep on a poor ration produced only 2.5 pounds of raw wool, while a fattening ration averaged 8.5 pounds of wool. This was because some of the follicles did not function on a poor ration, and the fibers from other follicles became finer.

Disease, sudden storms, extreme changes in temperature, and radical changes in feed will cause slower growth, a finer fiber, and lower wool production. Sheep should have an adequate ration for maximum wool production, especially during pregnancy and lactation. V

## Ridgetown Loafing Barn

A LOAFING barn and milking parlor set-up, which has been in use at the Western Ontario Experimental Farm for the past five years, has proved that this system of handling dairy cattle is sound and sensible for the district, it was reported during the Farmers' Week program this year. The herd has been practically disease-free since going into the quarters, and production has been high.

The dairy herd is thriving on a ration consisting of seven parts of corn and cob meal, three parts of oats, and



D2 and Tool Bar carry 15 teeth, cutting a 12' swath 6" to 8" deep to work the soil thoroughly.

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for ERNEST YESTRAU,  
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"What do you like about your D2?" we asked Mr. Yestrau. His answer: "Low cost of operation and maintenance, dependability, power, traction, no packing of the soil, getting on the land early, sure starting!"

He adds, "I've tried other makes of tractors before switching to Caterpillar Diesel Tractors. I've been very pleased since making the change."

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one and one-half parts of soybeans as a protein supplement. This means that most of the grain needed by dairy cattle can be grown right in the area. Hay and silage are fed free choice. V

### Silage Brings The Cattle Through

EXPERIENCE in Saskatchewan this winter has shown the adaptability of silage for cattle feed. Grass ensilage made from sweet clover, alfalfa, brome or annual crops, such as green oats, was put up in different parts of the province, mainly because the danger of flooding prevented the stacking of dry fodder in the usual manner. Animals wintered almost entirely on the silage diet have come through in good shape, according to feeders, and this has meant the difference between bringing the cattle through and starvation, in many cases.

Some feeders have replaced dry fodder completely with silage, but W. Erle Roger, livestock specialist with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, says it is a good plan to feed some hay as well, especially in extreme weather.

Any of the common legume and grass plants grown for livestock in the province have made good silage, especially when they were mixed, because the varying amounts of moisture in different plants makes for better fermentation. Legumes cut in early blossom and grasses cut at heading time are high in vitamins and minerals, as well as protein, and it has been found that wet storage and fermentation do not harm these qualities. Because of the variety of plants suited to ensilage, and the fact that it can be put up under very wet conditions, silage feeding is increasing in popularity. V

### New Era In Cattle Breeding

FROZEN semen will probably be a useful way to improve herds faster by artificial insemination. Although there are no reliable figures yet on conception rates where the semen has been frozen, it has shown good livability and has some obvious advantages. It gives the breeder a wider choice of bulls, so that he will have access to the better ones. He can avoid the dangers of inbreeding in areas where artificial insemination is concentrated from one bull stud, because he can ask for semen from more distant studs.

The disadvantages are that frozen semen costs more than fresh semen, and it may reduce the accuracy of bull evaluation by not having several bulls equally represented in a number of herds.

The Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has set up a frozen semen laboratory which will ship the frozen semen to herds at branch farms across the country. This will be a good way to test the effectiveness of freezing and storing semen, and despatching it over long distances. V



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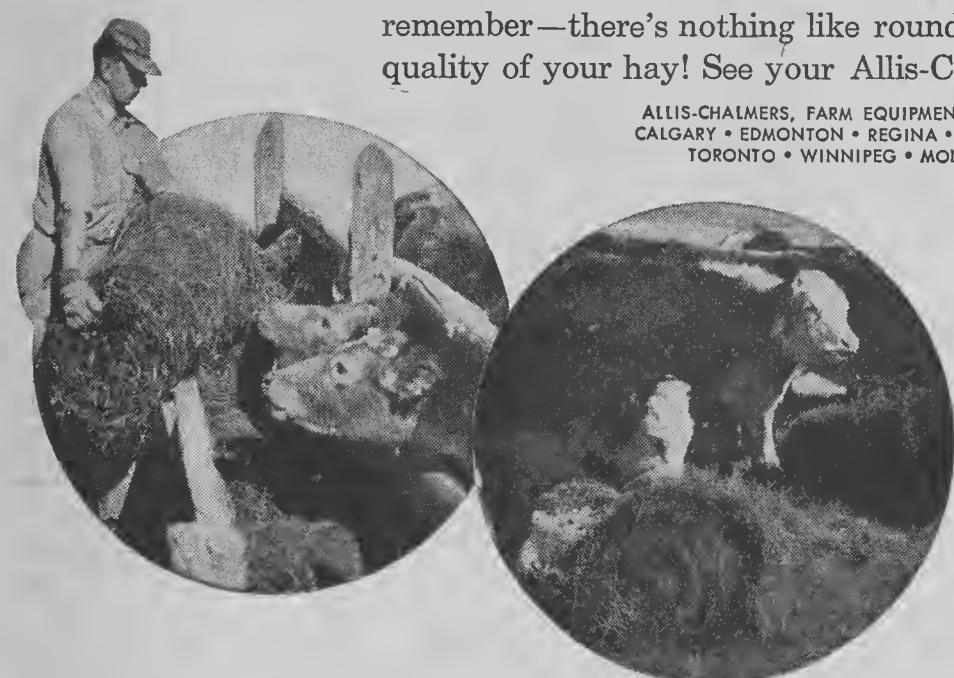
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## FIELD



A fine new 10,000-bushel granary completed last fall on the farm of Sam and Rupert Kirkham, registered seed growers, at Saltcoats, Saskatchewan.

## Broken Sod Outyielded Summerfallow

A COMPARISON between yields on broken sod and summerfallow is being made by Brandon Experimental Farm, Manitoba. So far, after only one crop, the average yield was higher on broken sod, and was considerably higher where erosion had taken place.

In the summer of 1954, a ten-acre field of brome and alfalfa, which had been down for four years, was broken up and allowed to lie fallow. Adjoining this, on a common boundary one-eighth mile wide, was a field that had been in cereal production for a number of years, and this was summerfallowed.

A strip of oats was seeded down the boundary in 1955, allowing sufficient width to make a yield comparison. Three locations were chosen, and five paired samples were harvested from each field at the three sites, which included a well-drained upland with sandy soil, an exposed and eroded knoll, and a poorly drained wet depression.

The average yield per acre on the soil improved by brome and alfalfa was 76.1 bushels, compared with 73.8 bushels on the summerfallow. On the eroded knoll, the broken sod produced 62.2 bushels, and the summerfallow only 42.1 bushels. Yields from a second crop will be compared this year. V

## New Nitrogen Fertilizer Tested

A HYDROUS ammonia, which is a recent addition to the nitrogen fertilizers, is an ammonia gas compressed to liquid form, and is obtained as a by-product from distilling coal, or by combining hydrogen with nitrogen from the air.

Tested on wheat, oats, barley and flax at the Regina Experimental Farm last year, anhydrous ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) was applied to a heavy oat stubble at 40 pounds of nitrogen to the acre, which is enough to produce 30 bushels of wheat per acre. Another treatment was to apply both NH<sub>3</sub> and 11-48-0 both at 40 pounds an acre, and a third plot received no fertilizer.

The biggest increase in yield, compared with the check plot, was with NH<sub>3</sub> and 11-48-0 combined on oats, which produced 75.1 bushels per acre, with a value of increase, less the cost

of fertilizer, of \$18.14. NH<sub>3</sub> alone on flax gave a yield of 20.7 bushels, or 6.1 more bushels than the check plot, and a net value increase of \$11.09. The only cases where the value did not increase were on the wheat plots, NH<sub>3</sub> with oats, and NH<sub>3</sub> with barley, where the gains did not cover the cost of fertilizer.

However, response to fertilizer varies considerably from one season to another, and it is too early to make recommendations on the basis of last year's figures. V

## Grain Corn Area Extended

GRAIN corn can be successful in western Nova Scotia, especially in the Annapolis Valley. This is the conclusion drawn by G. G. Smeltzer of the Kentville Experimental Farm, after planting two varieties, Beacon and Twitchell's Pride, in the middle of May at Mavilette and Noel Shore and finding that they matured in the first week of October.

A larger than average plot of Canada 240 was planted at Kentville and yielded 90 bushels per acre, but other varieties tested there matured too late. Canada 240 is also a late variety and would be of little value except in the Annapolis Valley, where it could be tried on account of its high yield.

Wild animals and birds did a lot of damage to small plots of corn during the trials, but Mr. Smeltzer feels that the damage could be much lighter if larger acreages of grain corn were grown. V

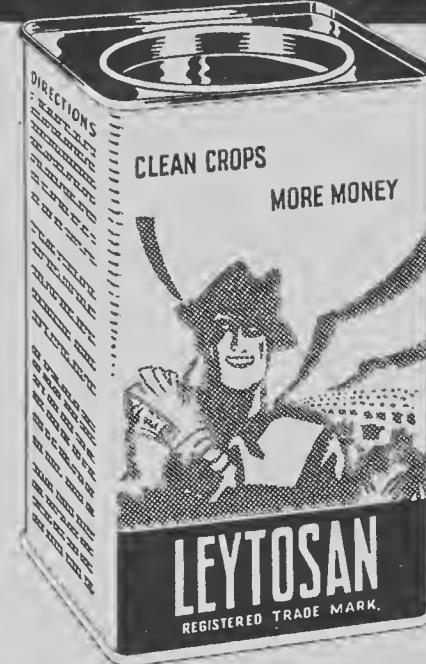
## Boosting Sugar Beet Production

PLAN to plant your sugar beets by May 12 and provide as long a growing season as possible, advises S. Dubetz, Lethbridge Experimental Farm, Alta. Another way to encourage good yields is by early and careful thinning, and also by proper weeding.

Provided that irrigation is satisfactory, the next most important factor is soil fertility, and barnyard manure is by far the best for sugar beets. Results at Lethbridge have shown that manure applied at 15 tons per acre every four years will increase yields by six tons per acre. Sufficient phosphorus can be provided by 11-48-0 applied with the seed at 100 pounds

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**DR. J. E. MACHACEK**, plant pathologist at the Plant Pathology Laboratory at Winnipeg, has this to say . . . quote: "All flax should be treated with a good seed protectant. The main reason for this recommendation is that much of the flax sown contains cracked kernels which rot in the soil unless the seed is treated." unquote.

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24

## FIELD

per acre. Some of the less fertile soils respond well to nitrogen fertilizer, which can be plowed under in the fall, and worked into the soil in spring before planting or side dressed. But because it increases top growth, which is not always a sign of a bigger yield, farmers are advised to use nitrogen fertilizer on a trial basis at first.

Legumes supply nitrogen to the soil, and when plowed under as green manure, they increase the organic matter in the soil.

Rotation and fertility programs vary with individual growers, but if sound principles are applied, Mr. Dubetz believes that it is possible to raise 20 tons of sugar beets to the acre in southern Alberta, and more farmers should aim to do this. ✓

### Wild Oats Control Measures

CULTURAL control measures are still the only methods recommended for wild oats, and of these the most popular is delayed seeding. This requires light early spring tillage, to promote germination, on as hot and dry a day as possible. An early maturing barley provides the best competition for wild oats, and seeding should be delayed until June 1 to 10. Seed at a slightly heavier rate than normal, and apply fertilizer to insure a vigorous crop.

As an alternative, the Regina Experimental Farm recommends, where possible, fall seeded crops, green feed or seeding down to grass and mixed farming rotations.

It seems that 3,4-D may be effective as a chemical control for wild oats, but this is still in the experimental stage, and it is not yet certain that it will give consistent results at a reasonable price. ✓

### Eagle Survives Long Trial Period

SUMMARIZING oat variety tests for the lower Fraser Valley, which have been made over the past 19 years, D. K. Taylor, senior agronomist at the Agassiz Experimental Farm, B.C., reports that Eagle has the best combination of yield and resistance to lodging of any variety tested. Eagle is a relatively short, stiff-strawed variety with a high yield potential when free of disease. Its kernel may not be as plump as Victory, but it has a medium percentage hull and good quality.

It has often been said that Eagle straw may stay green after the grain is ready to harvest, and this is especially serious with the increase in combine harvesting. Steps are being taken at Agassiz to select oat hybrids with better straw ripening characteristics.

Victory approaches Eagle in yield, but in comparative tests it was always lower than Eagle by as much as 1.5 to 9.7 per cent. Victory is also more susceptible to lodging. Ajax, which is slightly lower in yield than Eagle or Victory, is recommended for farmers interested in an early crop. It matures a week earlier than the other two, and its straw matures along with the grain at harvest time. ✓

### Higher Corn Yields at Woodslee

ONE of the most dramatic examples of the value of research and experimental work in improving crop yields has been staged by the Experimental substation at Woodslee, Ontario, in that level expanse of rich cash-crop land in southwest Ontario. This station was set up in 1946 to specialize in soils work, and especially to search out the cause of slumping corn yields.

It has demonstrated that simply by growing alfalfa for two years on rundown soil, which was yielding about 35 bushels to the acre, and harvesting the hay and leaving only the roots in the ground, corn yields can be boosted to 70 bushels or so. Scientists there have gone on to show that through further use of nitrogen fertilizer, yields can be upped another 15 to 20 bushels.

The importance of this work can be seen in the fact that soil on the 100-acre Woodslee farm is typical of the majority of farm land in the area. There are about one and three-quarter million acres of clay, clay loam and silt soil in the counties of southwestern Ontario which make up these problem soils.

The station has come up with some other interesting observations as well. Aware of the fact that summer dry spells often play havoc with pastures and make livestock raising costly, they now point out that a major purpose of crop rotation on a clay soil should be to improve physical condition, so that all crop residues must be returned to the soil. Their experiments have shown that where this is done, a cropping system that does not include livestock can still maintain soil productivity, the same as if manure was worked into the soil.

They have found, too, that anhydrous ammonia applied to the soil under pressure with special equipment is a satisfactory source of nitrogen. ✓

### Grass Those Roads and Headlands

HEADLANDS and roadways on the farm often grow weeds, which later spread to crop land and become a costly nuisance. The answer is to sow these areas permanently to grass. Russian wild ryegrass is proving useful on roadways at Swift Current Experimental Farm, Sask., and when seeded at a heavy rate, it has formed a good sod and withstood traffic very well. It is a low-growing, leafy grass, which does not need much mowing, and is palatable to roaming cattle in the fall. Crested wheatgrass is also recommended.

Both of these varieties should be seeded at about ten pounds per acre through every run of the drill on roadways. To adjust the drill for seeding the right amount, try it out on hard ground in the yard and set it for 25 to 35 seeds to drop per foot of drill row.

Other advantages of grassed roadways and headlands are that they look neat, and it is possible to drive all round the fields on them even shortly after rain. ✓

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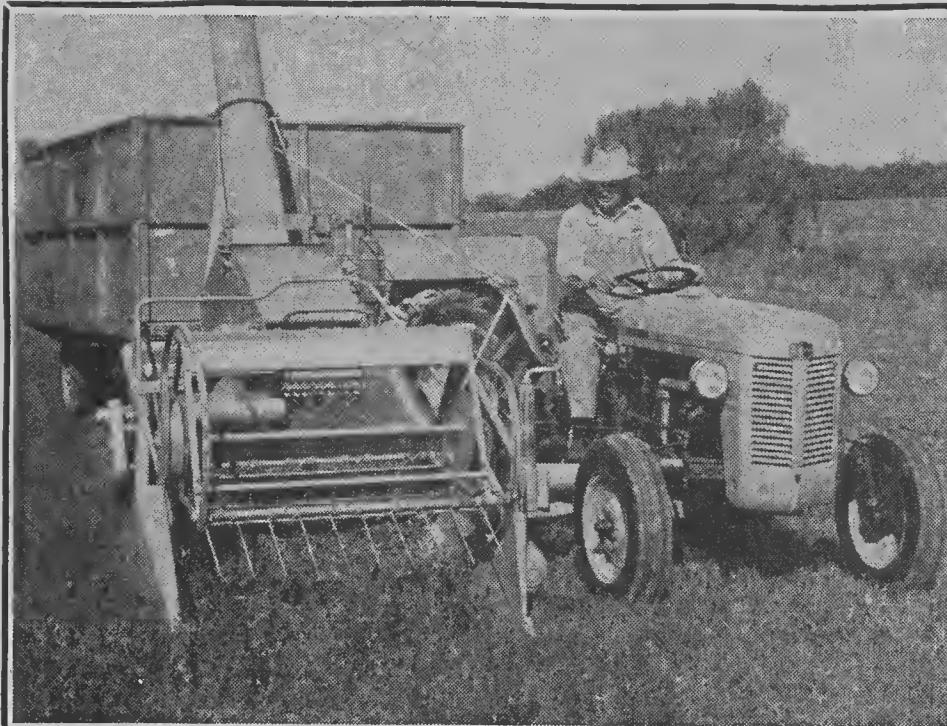
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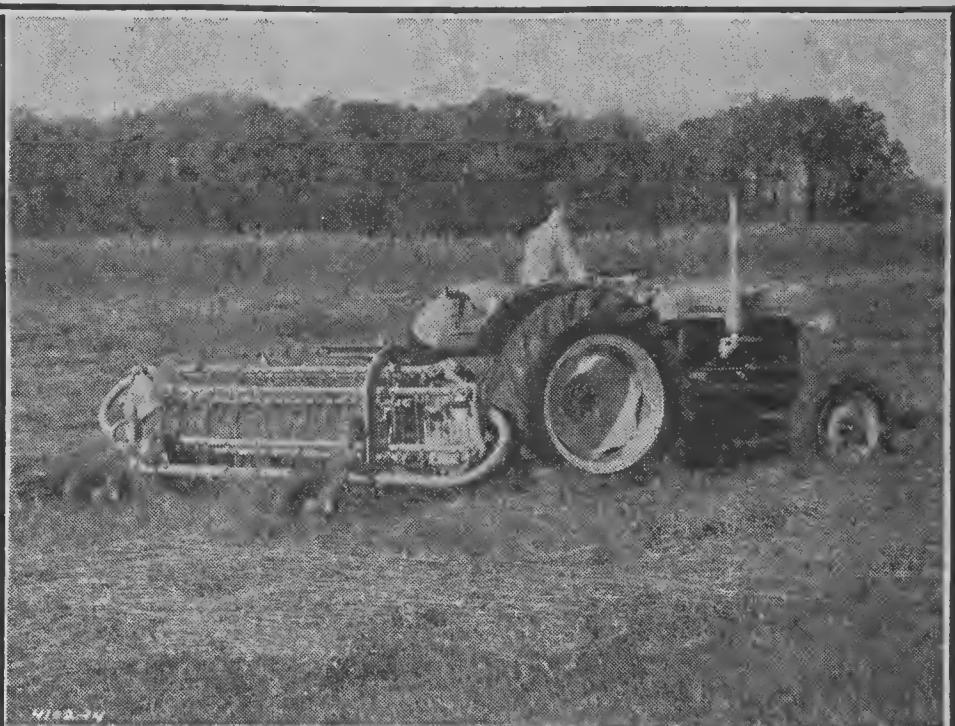
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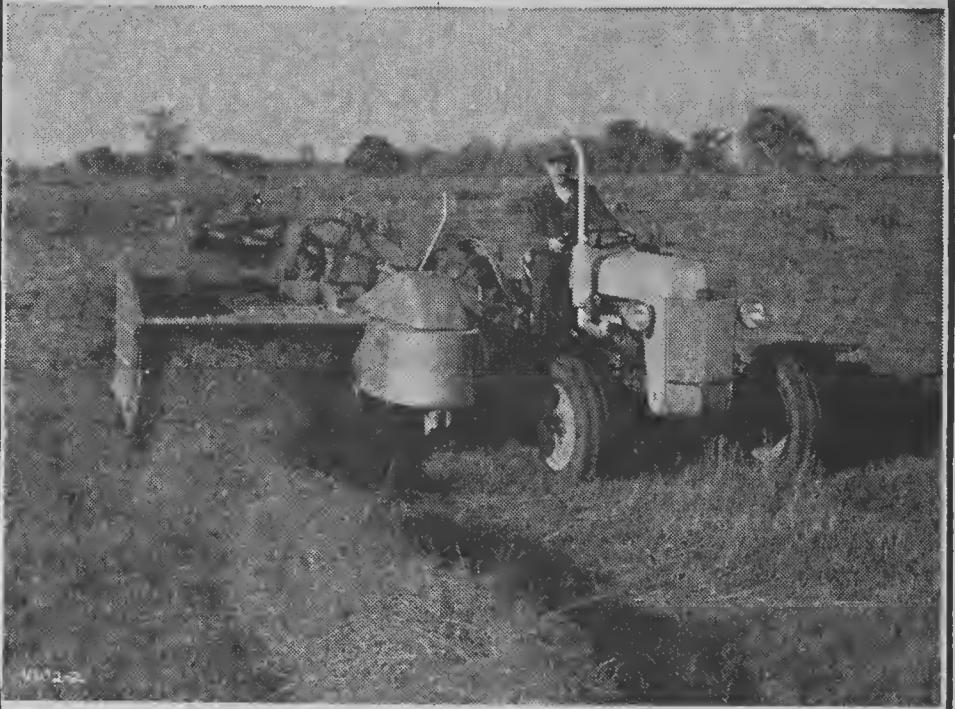
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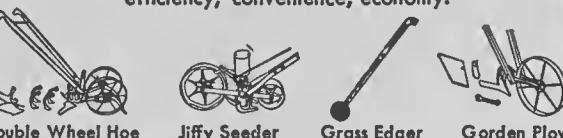
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**Care  
Of Lawns**

**B**EGIN by checking and oiling your lawnmower." This is the advice of the Experimental Farm at Saanichton, B.C., in connection with spring care of lawns. They add that the mowers should be sharpened, if necessary, and the height of cut adjusted to not less than one and one-half inches.

No small part of the satisfaction to be secured from a good lawn during the summer months will be due to the early spring care given it. As soon as the ground is dry enough, see that it is raked well, preferably with a bamboo, or a non-metal rake. If an iron rake must be used, use it gently.

Clip the lawn and let the clippings lie on the ground, unless they are fairly heavy. Fertilize early, using a fair amount of nitrogen, so that the lawn will thicken up and tend to hold back the weeds.

In some places the grass may have been killed. Where this has occurred, loosen the soil and re-seed, if necessary adding a sprinkling of good weed-free earth to make sure the seeds are covered. Water carefully, if necessary, daily, to make sure the seeds remain moist.

Rolling is not necessary unless the ground has heaved from freezing and thawing.

Finally, cut the lawn frequently enough that after each cutting, the cuttings may be allowed to remain on the ground. V

**Peach  
Quality Affected**

**C**URRENT studies at the Summerland experimental farm in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia clearly indicate that harvest maturity and the ripening and storage of peaches markedly affect the quality of canned peaches.

This means that if it is necessary to store peaches before they are canned, the duration of, and the temperature during storage are very important. The best quality of canned product is secured when peaches are harvested so as to require from four to eight days at 70° F. before they reach canning ripeness. Peaches left on the trees

later than this are subject to bruising and inferior texture. Peaches requiring more than eight days to mature, tend to be smaller and to lose both in flavor and texture.

The best ripening temperature range is 65° to 75° F. Lower temperatures change color and flavor. When ripened at higher temperatures, off flavors may develop and the fruit does not store as well. Ripening should take place before cold storage, during which peaches will keep satisfactorily for two weeks at 31° to 32° F. V

**A Mulch  
For the Garden**

**T**O keep down the weeds and to conserve as much moisture as possible during the hot summer months are ever-present problems for the prairie vegetable gardener. Dr. Charles Walkof of the Experimental Station at Morden says that the use of a mulch tends to insure a good supply of moisture and control of weeds. Besides, it is a good fertilizer and soil conditioner. The mulch does not help the appearance of the garden, but, says Dr. Walkof, it will help to produce a high yield of excellent quality vegetables.

A mulch may not be desirable for such plants as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and melons, which require high temperatures. Mulches, as a rule, keep the soil temperature lower than that of unmulched soil. Nevertheless, while a cool soil may delay fruit ripening, a mulch often promotes larger fruit and tends to retard development of blossom-end rot on tomatoes.

Sawdust, straw, grass clippings, old manure and other like materials give good results and are the cheapest mulches. They should be applied in a two- or three-inch layer as soon as practicable after the vegetables are well up. Any time after thinning, the mulch can be moved in close to the plants, which will prevent weed growth and keep down the amount of hoeing necessary.

If straw or other fibrous material is used it will be advisable to scatter one-half ounce of 11-48-0 or 16-20-0 ammonium phosphate fertilizer per square foot, before the mulch is added. The reason is that the mulch material gradually decays and in the process of decay, soil organisms are likely to draw nitrogen from the soil. V



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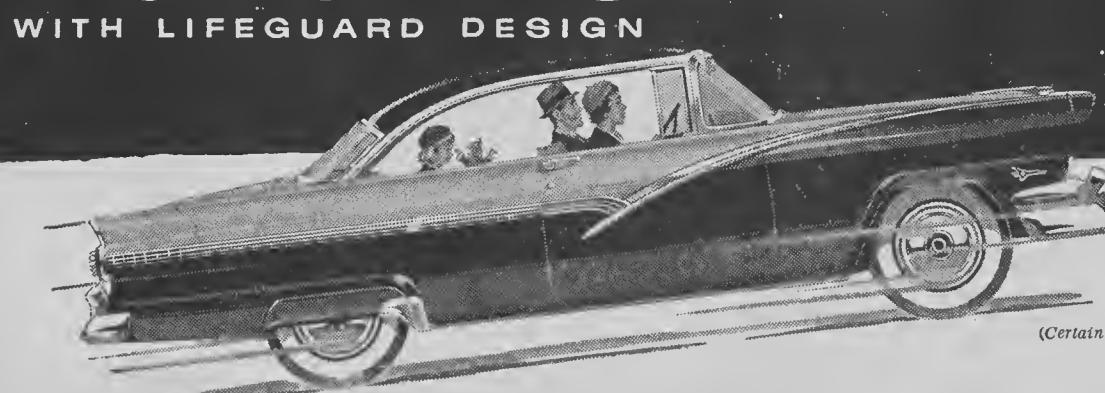
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## POULTRY



Poultrymen had their problems, too, during the long winter. This picture from Miss Wanda Rudd, Provost, Alberta, shows a chicken house after a storm.

### Ventilation Without Drafts

NATURAL ventilation for poultry houses should supply the proper amount of air without drafts. Vents which admit outside air high up will give it a chance to mix with warm air before it settles on the birds, and deflectors over the roosts will also prevent drafts.

The Oregon State College experiment station at Corvallis recommends that when considering the number and size of the openings in your ventilation system, you should take note of the shape of the poultry house and its location, the arrangement of roosts and other interior fittings, and the direction of the prevailing wind and rain. It is best to build in too many vents and then close them for proper ventilation.

For houses of 20-foot width, or less, a two to three-foot high opening can be used along the front of the building, and should be adjustable. Along the back, an eight-inch opening should be sufficient, using a hinged flap. For buildings more than 20 feet wide, either increase the size of openings at the back, if the roosts are in the center of the house, or install roof ventilators for roosts at the back of the house. V

### Finest Meat Producer

BROILERS have had a big effect on the efficiency of poultry meat production, chiefly as a result of improved meat strains capable of making very rapid gains during early life. There has also been improvement in feed mixtures to give more economical gains, and better housing, equipment and disease control have played their part.

H. S. Gutteridge, chief of the Poultry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, says that a 3.2-pound broiler can now be produced under commercial conditions in eight to ten weeks on as little as 2.6 pounds of feed per pound of live weight. On the other hand, 3.7 pounds of feed are needed per pound of live weight in producing a 200-pound hog, and even more to fatten steers and sheep. A broiler needs 4.4 pounds of feed per pound of edible meat, and the figures for hogs, sheep and steers are proportionately higher. It is estimated that the hog, which is the closest competitor

to the broiler, is about 20 per cent less efficient in feed conversion than the broiler. V

### Restricted vs. Full Feeding

IF you are wondering whether restricted or full feeding is best for chicks on range, tests at the Brandon Experimental Farm, Manitoba, show that there is practically no difference in performance when they become layers, whichever method is used.

The chicks at Brandon had the same ration to eight weeks old, with scratch grain fed in the six to eight weeks period. At eight weeks, they were divided into two equal groups and moved to two enclosures on alfalfa range. One group was fed to appetite on growing mash, whole wheat and whole oats, while the other, after having mash and whole oats to appetite for one week, was restricted to 75 per cent of the mash eaten by the first group in the previous week, and an amount of whole oats equal to 75 per cent of the combined weight of wheat and oats eaten by the first group. Insoluble granite grit was provided.

When transferred to laying quarters at 140 days old, feed consumption per bird on the restricted program was three pounds less than those of full feeding, but the full-fed birds averaged half a pound heavier. The two range treatments were similar in effect on egg production and the amount of feed required to produce a dozen eggs in a 336-day test. The weight difference was made up during the first month in laying quarters. Egg weights, at any given period, were similar in the two groups. V

### Eggs— Handle with Care

EGGS should be gathered frequently, whether for hatchery purposes or human consumption, and especially during very cold or hot weather, says Frank Payne, Saskatchewan poultry commissioner. They should be held at a temperature of 45 to 65 degrees F., and never above 65 degrees.

It is important to cool the eggs quickly after they are gathered, and to pack them in ordinary cases which can be turned from one side to the other daily. V

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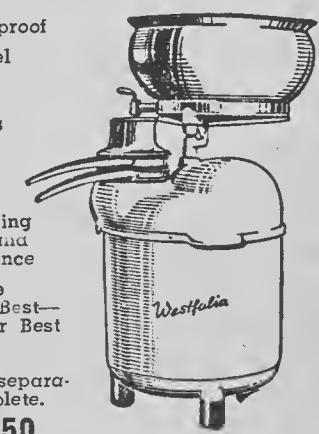
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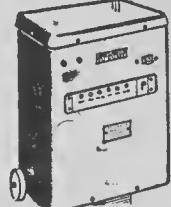
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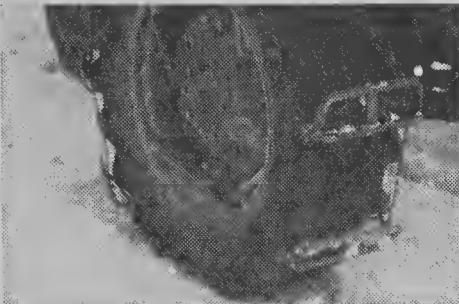
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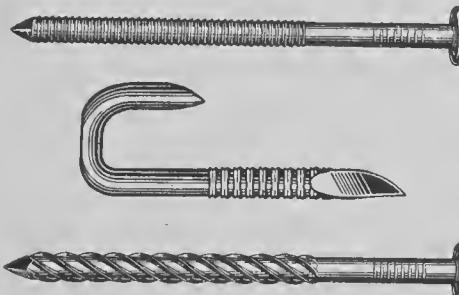
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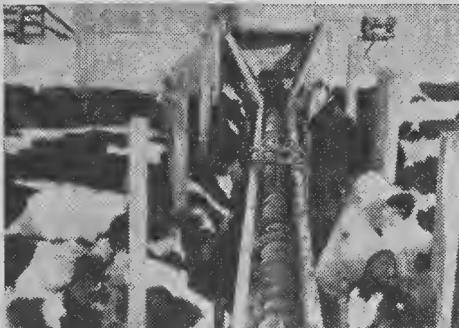
## WHAT'S NEW



In mud, loose soil or snow, with the tractor pulling a load, the scoops of the "Snap-Trac" open up and bite deep to prevent slipping, according to the manufacturers. On smooth pavement, the scoops stay closed and allow full road speed. (Snap-Trac Incorporated.) (118) ✓



Now available in Canada are Stronghold nails and fence staples, which are threaded to hold securely, even in creosoted posts. It is also claimed that they do not bend or break, drive in easily, are slimmer, and will not split the wood. (Independent Nail and Packing Co.) (119) ✓



A six-inch auger, similar to a grain screw, and available for any width or length bunk, new or old, has been designed for beef and dairy cattle feeding. Powered by electric motor and direct belt drive, the auger is on roller bearings. (VanDale Farm Machines Inc.) (120) ✓



This straw baler and chaff saver can be attached to almost any make of combine, say the manufacturers. It produces square bales, tied crosswise, which can be adjusted from 20 to 40 pounds weight, and it does not reduce the capacity of the combine. (Welger Bros.) (121) ✓

For further information about any item mentioned in this column, write to What's New Department, The Country Guide, 290 Vaughan St., Winnipeg 2, giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as-(17).

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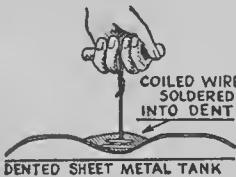
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## WORKSHOP

Make Things  
Easier on the Farm

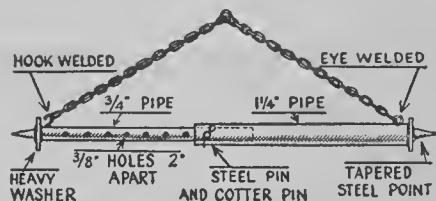
These ideas have been tried out and found to work by farmers who know what's wanted

**Straightening a Tank.** Sometimes, when a thin metal tank is dented or collapsed, it is possible to straighten out the dents with a rod, or by filling the tank with water under pressure. If these methods fail, a straightener can be made by coiling a piece of wire at one end and soldering it to the dented place on the outside of the tank. When the solder has set, pull the wire with one hand, and pound around the edge of the dent with a rawhide or "soft" hammer. The dent usually comes out easily, and then the solder can be melted off, and the same method applied to another dent. If the metal cannot be soldered, welding can be used instead.—W.F.S., N.J. V



wall, and when it passes over the scantlings, the compass needle will point at the nails in the wall boards.—H.S., Mich. V

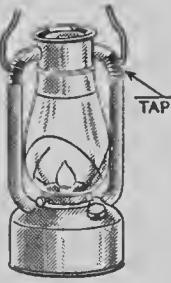
**Beast Lifter.** This sketch shows a beast lifter. As you will see, its width can be adjusted to the size of the animal, and it is very handy at killing



time. The tapered steel points at the ends are for inserting into the legs of the beast from the inner side.—H.L.S., Man. V

**Bending Tubes.** To make a neat bend in copper, aluminum and steel pipe or tubing, fill them with sand before bending. The sand will prevent the metal from creasing and causing flat bends. An additional aid is to nail a rounded block on a stand, and to bend the tube round it.—E.O., Alta. V

**Lantern Seal.** Road construction firms and some farmers still use oil lanterns, and they may be troubled by the flame blowing out in a wind. It may not be generally known, but the holes where the handle fits into the side pipes of the lantern may be letting in the draft. Some tape wrapped tightly around these holes may put an end to the trouble.—A.C., Ont. V

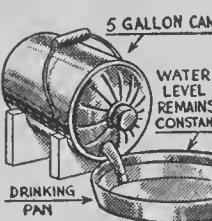


**Holding Bolt.** To hold a round-headed bolt in a vise, place a square nut on either side of it, just under the head. This forms a flat surface to hold the bolt snugly against the jaws of the vise. A stubborn nut can then be removed, or a new thread put on the bolt.—J.W.W., Man. V

**Handy Hoe.** This is a gadget for the home gardener. All you need is a mower blade fitted on to a short wooden handle, as shown. Its merit lies in its handiness for work between rows of plants.—E.G.B., Sask. V



**Poultry Fountain.** An automatic watering fountain for poultry can be made with a five-gallon can, as shown. After the can is filled, and the cap screwed on tightly, lay the can on blocks with its uncapped spout immersed to the fullest extent possible in a drinking pan. Water will flow from the can to maintain a constant level in the pan.—G.M.E., Alta. V



**Nails in Wall.** When hunting for a solid place to drive nails in a wall, for pictures or other purposes, don't take the chance of missing and making four or five bad holes for the sake of one. Take a compass and move it along the

**Rewinding Shade.** When rewinding a window shade on its roller, the job can be done quickly and easily if you place the angled end of the roller shaft in a key hole. This holds the shaft while the roller is being rotated.—J.W., Alta. V



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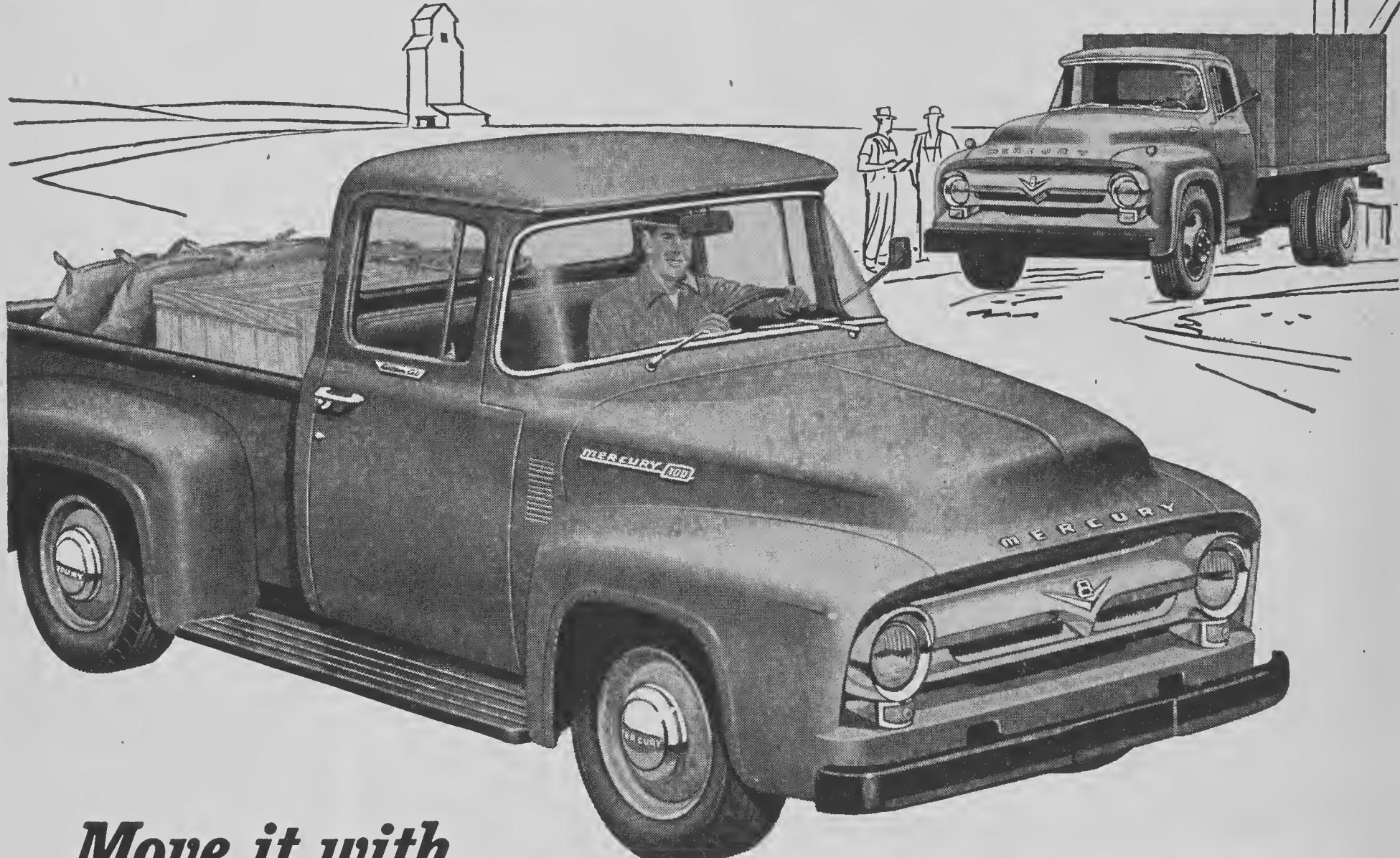
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# Young People

*On the farm and at home*



After a flight of 3,000 miles, pintails return to their former nesting grounds.

## The Flight Is On

WINGING their way throughout the length and breadth of a continent, our beautiful birds are arriving in countless numbers. Sometimes they arrive and make their nest in the same tree they used last year or in the same bird house which you built for them. Why do they migrate? What tells them that our warm weather is beginning? How do they find their way?

These questions have baffled scientists for ages and although they have learned much about bird travels yet they are not able to explain fully the mystery of the spring and fall migration of birds.

After years of research, scientists have observed that birds tend to follow air routes or flyways which give them a maximum number of safe resting places where they can find adequate food. These routes have been called Atlantic Flyway, Mississippi Flyway, Central Flyway and Pacific Flyway. This does not mean that certain birds travel strictly in a certain flyway. The main flight generally follows these flyways but bird watchers have discovered that birds will change their flyway if food becomes scarce or danger threatens.

At one time it was believed that the parent birds that had been over the route before, led the young over the aerial highways on their first journey south. This is now known to be false for in the case of such birds as sandpipers, cowbirds and some plovers the parents desert the young in the breeding area and start the long trip south, leaving the young birds to find their way alone. It is amazing to think that the young of the golden plover will later join their parents in Argentina—some 6,000 miles distant! How do these young birds find the way?

After long study, scientists have also determined that during migration some birds such as night hawks and swallows travel by day because they obtain their food while in flight; other birds such as warblers, thrushes, sandpipers, rails and snipes which search

the ground for their food, eat and rest during the day and travel at night. What guides these birds in the darkness?

The plaintive honking of migrating Canada geese flung out in long V-formations across a prairie sky is a sight of indescribable beauty and mystery. These magnificent birds have fought their way 3,000 miles through blinding snow and rain, fierce heat and hurricane winds to gain their northern nesting grounds. On and on they wing their way, flying at a steady rate of 50 miles an hour, their powerful grey wings making 500 beats each minute. Unerringly the oldest and wisest goose leads them over an invisible pathway on to their goal. With a rush of wings and a thin wild calling come the ducks bound for the very lake on which they were hatched and learned to swim.

At Point Pelee, Ontario, one may see possibly the largest concentration of migrating birds in all of North America. This point is the natural migration bridge across Lake Erie where the exhausted birds gather to rest and feed. But not for long! Birds observed one day are not likely to be seen the next. They have passed on and a fresh wave of migrating birds has arrived. The trees are almost completely covered with countless birds of dazzling colors, the air noisy with their singing. In one day at the height of migration an observer could easily see over 100 different species.

On the Pacific Flyway different species of birds, from those found on the prairies, may be seen . . . the Red-backed junco, the Western bluebird, Rufus hummingbird, puffins and the Emperor geese.

Such birds as the Greater snow goose, Eastern meadow lark, Arctic tern and Red-shouldered hawk choose to migrate via the Atlantic Flyway.

All over the world the signal has been given—the flight is on! With an imperative and unresisting urge the birds are flying north to their nesting grounds. Mile after mile they travel, spanning a distance of 500 miles in a

single flight, following routes selected by their breed perhaps 10,000 years ago. Weaker birds are forced down in storm, enemies attack from the air or on the ground, a fire sweeps through the forest, a tornado rips through the skies—but relentlessly and steadfastly the flight goes on! V

## Twenty-fifth Birthday

"I BELIEVE we can compare the fundamental structure of the 4-H in Saskatchewan to a wheel," said Mr. C. G. Caswell, agricultural representative from Melville. Addressing delegates to the 25th Conference of Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs at Saskatoon in early March, Mr. Caswell outlined the working organization of 4-H clubs in his province.

"The parent of the 4-H member can be considered as the *axle* around which the movement revolves. Without understanding parents, who are sympathetic to 4-H, a club cannot function. Around the parents are the boys and girls of 4-H club age which act as the *bearings* of the wheel. To keep this and other parts operating smoothly and efficiently, we add the *lubricant*—the club leader. The *housing*, around the axle bearings and lubricant, is the community in which a 4-H club is functioning. Other essential parts of this wheel such as the *spokes* can be compared to the district 4-H council executive which plans inter-club activities."

"A ride on a wheel without a *rim* could be pretty rough, so we add the agricultural representative who serves as judge, lecturer, demonstrator and advisor to keep things running smoothly. On this wheel we also have a *tire*—the Extension Department of our university—which determines policy and directs the 4-H movement in the province."

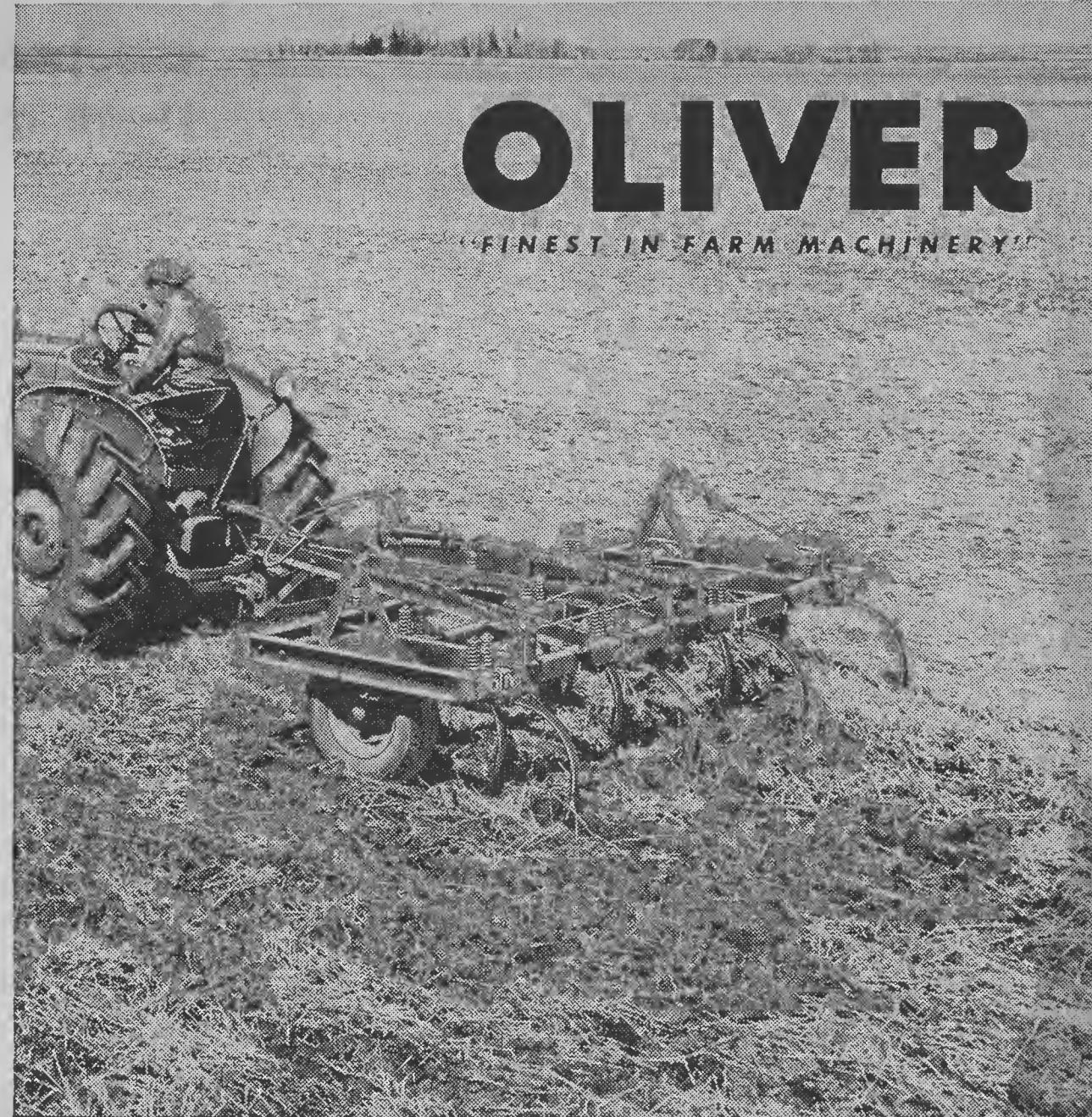
"We could add another part to this wheel, a chrome *wheel ring*—a provincial 4-H advisory council made up of persons vitally interested in the success of the 4-H movement."

Saskatchewan has 747 clubs with a total membership of 11,966. Each agricultural representative supervises an average of 323 club members. On graduation from 4-H club work a club member is able to assist the representative in organizing new clubs and promoting improved agricultural practices. V

## Roadside Signs

The homes of the 15 members of Onslow Garden Club in Nova Scotia are marked with 4-H gate signs. With the assistance of the local municipal council material was purchased, the boys assembled the signs and erected poles and the girls did a fine painting job.

Standard measurements as provided by the Engineering Department at Truro are: main post—4 inches in diameter and 8 feet above ground, cross piece—3½ feet by 2½ inches, supporting angle brace—3 feet by 2½ inches. V



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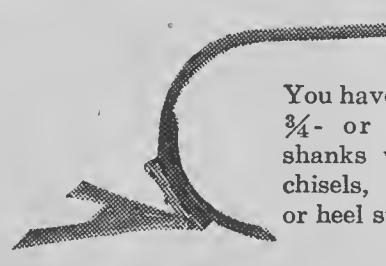
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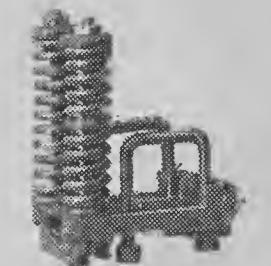
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## Large-Scale Egg Production

He averages 2,700 dozen eggs per year sold to each of 130 stores in his area

THIS original goal wasn't a mammoth egg production factory, but when George Scott got started in chickens, he just didn't seem able to turn off the pent-up enthusiasm that kept driving him toward a bigger flock. As a result, on his little piece of land east of Whitby, Ontario, he has what may be the biggest flock of layers in the province.

His one five-storey, home-designed laying house handles 16,000 hens. He aims at 65 per cent production from birds of varying breeds and strains, and turned out 351,000 dozen eggs last year, candled, graded, and cartoned right on the place. He has a truck busy full-time delivering to 130 stores in the populous Whitby-Oshawa area, and still can't keep up to demand. Consequently he buys some eggs from other producers, to fill his customers' orders.

Despite the immense poultry enterprise he has developed, he hasn't spent his life at it. He barbecued for ten years, then worked in the huge General Motors plant at Oshawa for five years, and finally, when his health went wrong, his doctor told him to take it easy.

Quiet-spoken, with an unassuming manner, Mr. Scott has gone on from there, but the unobtrusive way he has done it has hardly betrayed his great capacity to take in his stride the building and management of such a set-up.

Ground work for it was laid over 20 years ago, when he was trapnesting a small flock of Barred Rocks. He recalls now that one bird laid 324 eggs in a year for him. Even while barbecuing, he was restive to get into the poultry business.

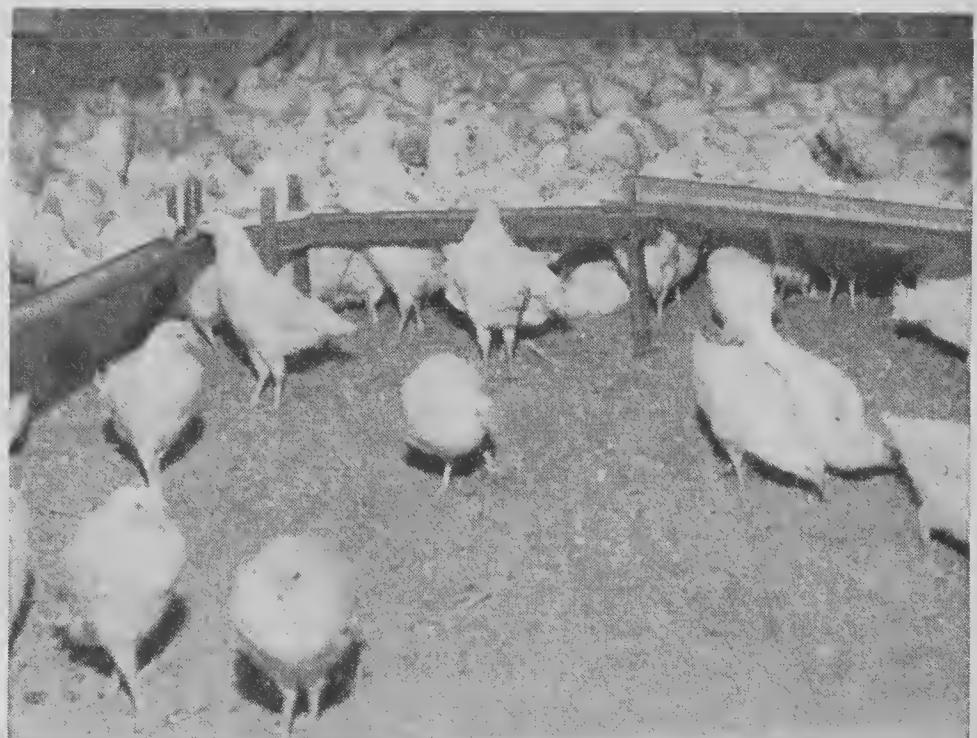
By 1940, he switched over to full-time poultry keeping, using his old two-storey building that measured 92 by 20 feet. He also had laying flocks out on farms of the district. Then, four years ago, he designed the new five-storey giant that houses his huge flock today.

It is built simply but soundly, with plenty of insulation, aluminum sheathing to shed the heat, and a flat roof. It is equipped with individual nests, automatic feeders and waterers, and hinged windows. Air ducts go from each floor to the top, where fans draw out stale air through two large air ducts. The total cost was only \$1.75 per bird housed. He gambled that he could ventilate the two 60-feet-square pens on each of the first four floors, and it paid off for him. His top floor, which has only one pen about 60 feet by 120 feet, less the storage space for bagged feed stored there, also has proved adequate, and is the most comfortable one in the house.

He built in a series of chutes so that feed can be dumped from the top storey into the automatic feeders on whatever floor needs it, enough for one feed at a time. He also can drop grit or oyster shell down separate chutes in the pens to any floor below. All these supplies are elevated to the top mechanically. The elevator also can be reversed, when it is time to ship the hens to market; and the birds are carried down the elevator to the truck waiting below where they are loaded into crates.

Mr. Scott buys his birds as started 10-week-old pullets, mostly brown egg layers. He has some Leghorns, but figures that the heavier breeds pay him better. He pays less for the pullets, and they leave a bigger carcass to sell at year's end. Birds of certain cross-breeds have done well for him, and he is trying some hybrids too.

He sells off his entire flock in January, cleaning the deep litter from the floors with small hand tractors with scraper blades attached, and pushing it into chutes that drop it outside. The pens are then thoroughly disinfected, before the started pullets arrive in February. These will be laying in April. V



Part of five-storey laying house which was designed by George Scott. Keeping a total of 16,000 hens, he marketed 351,000 dozen eggs last year to local stores.

Guide photo



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C. L. Perry of Byng Avenue, Toronto needs all the time and effort he can save for work in his greenhouses—he grows African Violets commercially. That's why he bought a Roto-Hoe. It makes a perfect seed bed in one easy operation, pulverizes compost for potting—and its rotary cutter (one of many handy attachments) trims lawns and even tall grass around trees. "The \$150 I paid for my Roto-Hoe, 4 years ago, has been saved dozens of times in labour cost alone, and though all my neighbours borrow it, I've never had the slightest trouble, thanks to its Lauson 4 cycle engine", says Mr. Perry. The 1956 range of 2 and 3 h.p. models are still low priced and even more dependable. Write for a free folder.



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## Ready-Made Farms for Dairymen

**I**N Holland, a piece of land surrounded by a dike is called a polder. On the low-lying flats along the Pitt River, about 20 miles from Vancouver, B.C., Dutch engineers are reclaiming a polder, and building a model farm community. Their company, known as Pitt Polders Ltd., plans to bring 8,000 acres of water-soaked clay and peat back into useful production, and these plans are moving ahead on schedule.

The upper Pitt lands were first diked in 1911, and reclamation attempted through funds provided by a Vancouver development company. But the pumping unit was too small to do the job properly. Then World War I interfered, and the scheme fell through. One of the major problems

at that time was that cold spring water running down off the mountains kept the land too cold for proper seed germination. Finally, there were several big breaks in the sagging dikes near Pitt Lake, and along a tributary stream, the Alouette, during the floods of 1948. After that, a shooting club took over the area as a private preserve and the chief harvest was mallard ducks.

When Dutch capital became interested in the area following World War II, they sent Dr. J. Blom out to inspect it in 1950. He did most of his touring by canoe. But Hollanders are old hands at reclaiming water-soaked land; so they decided to have a try at it. The Polder company was formed that year, and Dr. Blom was appointed as managing director.

The first job was to repair existing dikes and build a new one along the base of the mountain to keep run-off water out. A pumping station was built. This time two large pumps were installed, with a combined pumping capacity of 80,000 gallons per minute. After the new dikes came a network of drainage ditches, and the reclamation project was well under way.

**I**N addition to about 7,000 acres along the Pitt, the company obtained 1,000 acres farther south, between two branches of the Alouette—making 8,000 acres in all. The first cultivation began in the lower part of the polder, which involved breaking the land and seeding it down to oats, grass, and clover. It was decided to subdivide the area into dairy farm units of from 80 to 100 acres apiece, with tile drainage installed on each individual parcel. This was found necessary because of the nature of the soil, and the heavy annual rainfall.

Under the development scheme, the company readies the land with its heavy machinery, builds a new barn and modern home on each farm, then rents it to a dairyman of proven ability on a long-term lease. Tenants supply their own cultivating machinery and stock, but they are able to start out with a neat barn and home, which might ordinarily take them years to achieve under ordinary conditions. At present there are no plans to sell any polder land, but this may be considered later when the project is more or less completed.

"I want to emphasize that this isn't a colonization scheme for Dutch farmers," Dr. Blom explained. "Any good farmer can rent land here. However," he added, "we don't want to be swamped with applications right now, because we already have more than we can accommodate."

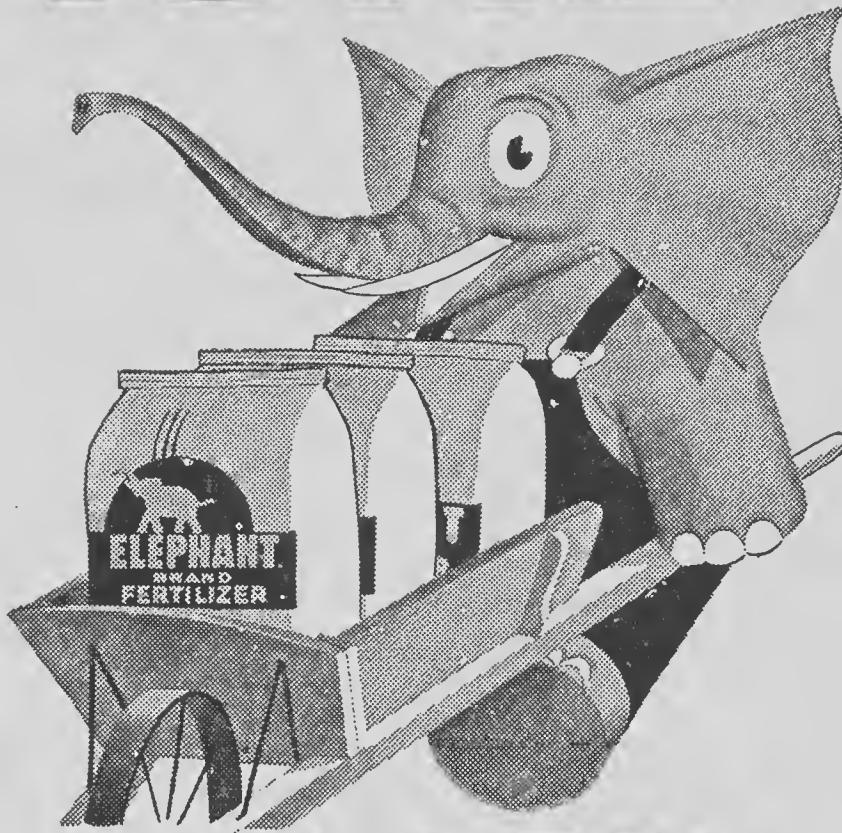
In the meantime, drainage and rejuvenation of the water-soaked land is going on steadily. But land reclamation isn't a job that can be done in a hurry, so it will be some time before the whole polder is ready for occupation. Twelve families are settled in the lower sector now, and a school bus has been provided to take the children to school in nearby Pitt Meadows. Eventually, the area is expected to contain about 80 to 90 modern dairy farms—a valuable addition to the future milk shed of metropolitan Vancouver, where the increasing urbanization of farm lands closer in is already causing concern to those who plan ahead.

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## No Answer Yet For Rhubarb Blight

by PERCY H. WRIGHT

SINCE the beneficial effect of rhubarb juice on the health of the teeth was revealed, many persons are eager to make a fuller use of this "fruit." (It must be considered as a fruit in the diet.) But they are prevented from doing so by the ravages of the red-leaf blight. For some unknown reason, red-leaf rhubarb blight seems to be confined to the prairie provinces of Canada.

Research has recently been undertaken to determine whether the deaths of plants are caused by a bacterium, a virus, or a physiological condition, but so far there has been not even a tentative conclusion. If the cause is a disease, we must explain why healthy plants may remain for many years uncontaminated beside dying ones. (It is also difficult, of course, to explain how this can occur even if the cause is physiological.) We must also explain why plants dug out as diseased, and left lying to die, will sometimes re-root and appear to be perfectly normal.

Dr. C. F. Patterson, of the University of Saskatchewan, is of the opinion that the cause is physiological, that is, due to "hardship" in some form, either climatic or nutritional. If his opinion is correct, we can improve the life of our rhubarb plants by giving them the best possible growing conditions, high fertility, sufficient moisture, freedom from the exhaustion of producing seed stalks, and from the effects of crowding and aged roots. Since all these features of good culture are rewarded in any case, we can make no mistake when we practice them. Mulching with straw, to keep the soil cool and moist, is sufficiently beneficial, in the plains country, to increase the yield of edible stalks by 50 per cent or more. Rhubarb also likes a little shade, but this, unfortunately, is difficult to provide without bringing tree-root competition into the picture.

The high-quality, sweet, rich, red varieties of rhubarb seem to be more susceptible than the old-fashioned green-stalked ones. Perhaps some of us in the more severe areas will have to be content to gain the health-giving factors of rhubarb juice from the green sorts, and to add the sugar ourselves. Since the various acids, vitamins and minerals that give rhubarb juice its value are undoubtedly as generously present in the green sorts as in the red sorts, the loss of superb appearance in the cooked product can then more easily be overlooked.



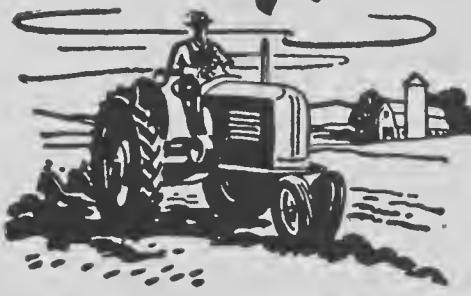
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## The Vision of John McDonald

Continued from page 10

an indefinable figure standing in the doorway of his bedroom and heard a reproving voice ask, "When are you going to save the soil?" The figure disappeared in an instant, but the words have stayed in Mac's mind to this day. More than that, the strange experience was translated into action. That vision — or dream, if you wish — started a "Save the Soil" campaign which has spread over half a continent.

Still haunted by the strange voice, McDonald saw his fields in a different light next morning. For the first time he noticed how tiny rivulets down the slopes of his rolling land had grown with each succeeding rain. These early signs of gullying on his own and neighboring land, convinced him that the whole district was headed for disaster.

For months Mac turned the problem over in his mind, searching for a plan. He talked with this neighbor and that. At last, in Pete Yacooshin he found another Eckville farmer who was aware of the danger. The two arranged for a public meeting, but the same rains that were deepening the erosion gullies, turned the country roads into a quagmire and the meeting had to be postponed. Then they would strike a busy period and couldn't leave the farm — time and time again their get-together had to be put off.

IT was a full three years after the vision before the first meeting was held in a granary at nearby Benalto — and then under strange circumstances which lent an air of drama to the occasion. Only three people attended — McDonald, Yacooshin, and George Richardson, secretary of the Benalto Agricultural Society. As they talked, dark clouds raced overhead, and driving ice and rain thundered on the granary's tin roof. But instead of drowning their voices, the din served only to emphasize the need of action. When the three men left the building, each had agreed to ask a few neighbors to attend another meeting. They must have wondered just how successful the second meeting would be — so



[Guide photo  
Peter Yacooshin and his grandson at their Eckville home farm in Alberta.

far, it seemed a pretty hopeless proposition.

But Mac McDonald was no stranger to adversity. A boyhood accident in his native Prince Edward Island took one of his legs. By 1910, tuberculosis had made such inroads in his health that the family doctor gave him less than a year to live. Mac left his school teacher's job on the Island and headed west. Hobbling about on crutches, he cleared land on his homestead at Leslieville, Alberta. Then he returned to the schoolroom for another stint before ill health finally drove him back to the farm, this time for good.

On a trip back to the Island three years ago, Mac called on the doctor and asked the latter if he recognized him. "Weel now," the old man said sadly, "if Johnny McDonald had lived, puir lad, ye'd be the spittin' image o' him."

For Pete Yacooshin, life had been no bed of roses either. After fleeing the Ukraine in 1917, he worked for Henry Ford in Detroit for awhile, then travelled west to Alberta, and began farming at Eckville. While learning the ways of the land he little dreamed that some day he would share in shaping farm practices over a wide area.

The second meeting (also at Benalto), saw a committee set up to finalize plans for a competitive "Save the Soil" campaign in that district. Chaired by Yacooshin, this committee consisted also of Don McDonald, Martin Gefle, and Hugo Mottus. The Eckville Board of Trade agreed to sponsor the first competition with a prize award of \$25. Elevator companies, fertilizer and implement companies, the Alberta Seed Growers' Association, the Central Alberta Dairy Pool, and the Benalto Agricultural Society also agreed to help.

Now endorsed by the Alberta Department of Agriculture, the first "Save the Soil" campaign was off to a flying start with 31 members. That J. M. McDonald and Sons should win this first campaign was a piece of sheer poetic justice.

From four or five regular meetings on soil conservation in the Eckville district, the movement spread to neighboring communities, then over the whole province. Similar programs appeared in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, then in parts of the United States.

Some time later, Mac McDonald got together with the secretary of the Eckville Board of Trade and worked out details for a method of giving annual recognition to outstanding farmers. This was forwarded to the then Minister of Agriculture, and, it is believed, laid the ground work for the Master Farm Family Award, the most coveted farm trophy in the province. Taken with the Farm and Home Improvement program, which grew out of "Save the Soil," this would make Eckville the cradle of Alberta's "better farming" movement.

Some day, one might hope, a farmer of that area who started checking soil erosion through "Save the Soil," then went on to build a model farm through "Farm and Home Improvement," will win the "Master Farmer Family Award." Then his farm will be a lasting tribute to Mac McDonald, Pete Yacooshin, and the extension workers who transformed a vision into action. □

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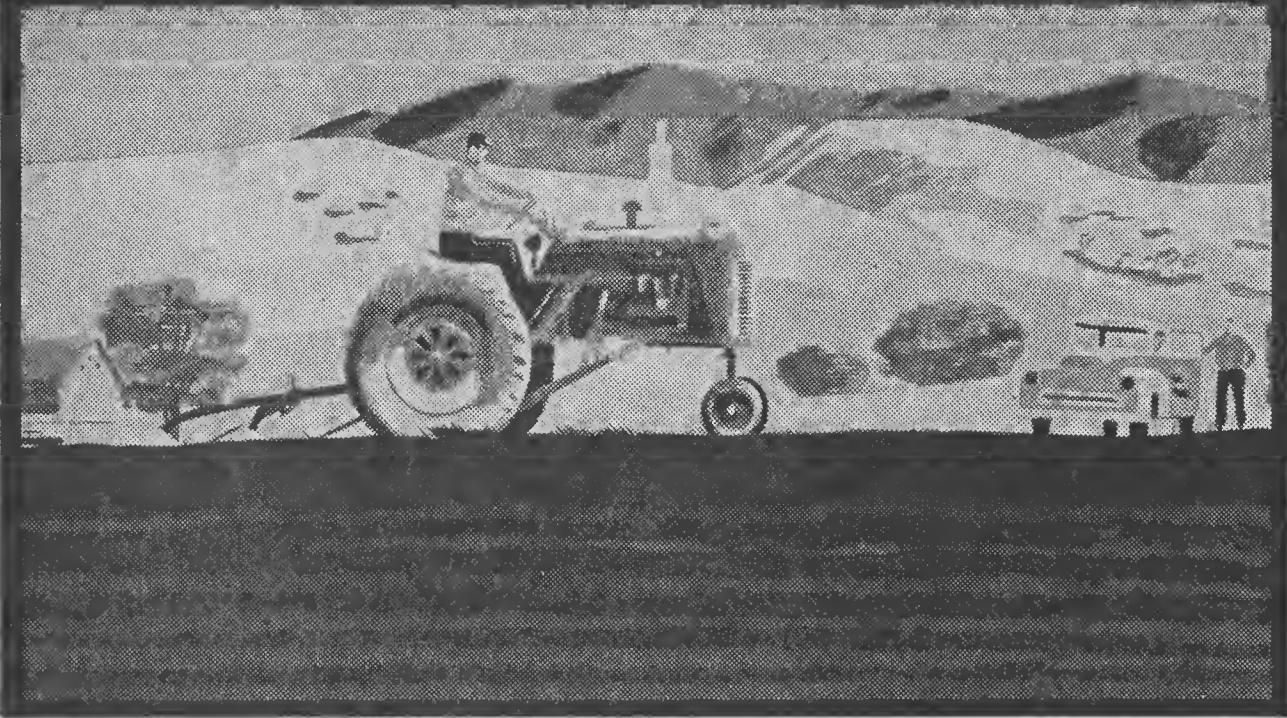
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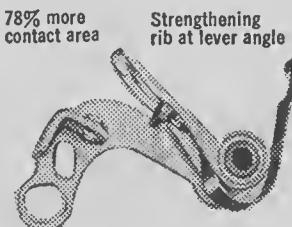
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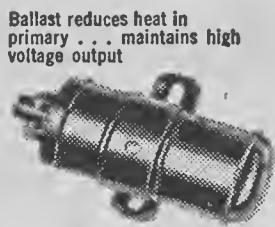
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the terms of the agreement, those who settle on these units aren't charged for the non-arable land. To get started, each veteran is allowed a sum of \$6,000 for his house, land, trees, and equipment. For the first five years he pays only the interest on this, and is then allowed 20 years to dig up the remainder. Regardless of how soon he pays off his loan, however, a tenant can't receive clear title to the property until he has been on there ten years.

About 30 families have been settled on the Bench, to date. Many of them have had to work at other jobs while their trees were maturing, but in another few years most of the farms will be self-supporting. In the short time they've been there, the veterans have transformed the area into a model fruit-farming community, with neat rows of healthy young trees and modern stucco homes, most of the latter built by the men themselves.

One of the first to finish his house and get started on the Bench was Walter Gemmell, a former member of the Army Postal Corps. Walt, who is a native of Findlater, Saskatchewan, had been working in the Similkameen Valley at the time he joined up, so it was natural he should return there when he decided to take up land under the V.L.A.

FOR Gemmell, who took up his holding in 1951, the long wait for the fruit trees to mature is nearing an end. Last year he made the first real shipments from his six acres of apples, apricots, peaches and pears, although it was a small harvest compared with what he expects to produce. To conserve moisture, Walt has sown alfalfa between his trees, which he will eventually plow under as green manure. In the meantime, he gets three cuts a year from the alfalfa, which brings in a little ready cash and protects the soil as well.

Walt draws his domestic and irrigation water from the Bench system, which is supplied from the Similkameen River. Three electric pumps, two of 200 h.p. and one of 100 h.p., lift the water to a surge tank that maintains a steady pressure so the pumps won't start operating every time someone draws a glass of water. In winter, the small pump handles all the needs of the district, saving the other two for the heavy demands of the growing season.

While his trees have been growing, Gemmell has kept things going by raising a few vegetables, such as early potatoes, and by working on established ranches down in the lower part of the valley. That way he was able to earn and learn.—C.V.F. V



Queen, the mare, and Spring, a Holstein cow, were great chums, writes Mrs. Ethel Kerus of Wimborne, Alta.



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## 4-H Club Council Deletes National Competitions

Delegates present reports at Saskatoon convention of Canadian Council on 4-H club work



Exec. Can. Council on 4-H Clubs, 1956: (l. to r.) seated: J. D. Moore, sec. mgr., Ottawa; Echo Lidster, B.C.; D. C. Foster, pres., Man.; F. E. Wolff, vice-pres., C.P.R., Toronto. Standing: R. G. Bennett, past-pres., Ont.; E. F. Pineau, Ottawa; R. P. Frey, Imp. Oil, Toronto; E. S. Manning, Packers, Toronto; J. E. Dube, Que.

THE newly elected executive of the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs is faced with the need to re-examine and define its policy. Delegates attending the 25th annual convention on 4-H clubs meeting in Saskatoon last month, placed before this body regional and national problems directly related to 4-H work in Canada.

Dr. V. E. Graham, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan, laid before the Council the problem of dwindling enrollment in the degree course at the University of Saskatchewan. From an enrollment of 147 students in 1949, the number has steadily decreased until this year only 25 students can be graduated. "We must have more students to continue the flow of professional agriculturists," said Dean Graham. "Unless we get more of the right type of young farmers into our agricultural colleges, Canada is going to lose out in agricultural leadership. Many of our students come up through 4-H club work. This problem I place before you."

Herb Clark, extension department, University of Saskatchewan, brought in an encouraging report on the increase in the number of 4-H clubs and members in his province. "But we are not reaching many rural youths over 17 years of age," stated Mr. Clark. The reason could be any one of several factors such as the shift of rural population to urban centers. Previously the rural youth attended high school in his own district but now the consolidated high school in a larger center took him out of the rural area. In the trend to larger farms and mechanization, many young people leave the rural districts to find employment. From our study we have concluded that "the average number of years a boy or girl remains in club work is 2.4 years," Mr. Clark said.

Jim Moore, secretary-manager of the Council, brought along his \$64 question to the Council. "While today's membership in 4-H clubs is more than twice that of 1945 yet the large

percentage of eligible young people not presently taking part would seem to indicate that a major objective for the future should be increased 4-H enrollment." (About 12 per cent of boys and girls eligible for membership, participate in 4-H club activities.)

Dr. F. J. Greaney, director, Line Elevator's Farm Service, Winnipeg, read communications from the Federation of Agriculture and the Prince Edward Island Federal-Provincial Agricultural Council, recommending that 4-H national competitions should be eliminated. This brought delegates from the various provinces to their feet.

Miss Echo Lidster, director of 4-H clubs in British Columbia, replied to the charge that national competitions had become too bitter. "Can teen-agers take competition? They enjoy it, thrive on it. But their sense of justice is very keen. Young people feel that competitions are becoming competitions between coaches. Results depend on coaching given by agricultural representatives. The good that comes out of that one day of competition does not go back into the province. British Columbia agrees that national competitions should be eliminated."

Newfoundland's representative, Dr. Florence O'Neill, presented the viewpoint of her province. "We strongly disagree with competition on the national level. Have competitions in the provinces and demonstrations at the national level but not competitions at the national level."

"Competition is building up a barrier. We are thinking in terms of provinces, not as a nation," declared Mrs. M. Manning of Charlottetown.

"In the United States competitions discontinue at the state level. At the national level, club members are chosen on record of work," noted Mr. Moore.

"We believe in national unity. However, I am afraid we are the only province opposed to the deletion of the competitions at the national level,"



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stated D. C. Foster, director of extension for Manitoba.

E. F. Pineau of the Canada Department of Agriculture pointed out that the expression of opinion of the various provinces indicated the course to follow. Substituting demonstrations at the national level would put Quebec on an unfair basis—a demonstration in French would not appeal to an English audience in Toronto.

On the motion of J. A. Garner, director of extension for Ontario, and Rupert Ramsay, director, Extension Department, University of Saskatchewan, "that competitions be eliminated at the national level," there was one dissenting vote—many who took part in the discussion declined to vote.

E. S. Manning of Toronto was determined to see the thing through. "We need a sort of royal commission to study our problems. We must reorganize our Council to see that it carries

out the work set for it. We must set up an organization in keeping with the times. I recommend to the board of directors that they make a complete study of the work of the Council and bring forward recommendations for them to follow." As a member of the new executive, Mr. Manning will be in a position to implement such changes.

At a subsequent meeting the board of directors confirmed that competitions at the national level should be deleted from future club activities. A special committee was set up to study and implement a future program.

After a quarter century of 4-H club work the Council can look back with pride on a record of remarkable growth and achievement. With foresight and understanding it must plot the future policy of 4-H clubs so that its youthful members can meet the challenge of a rapidly changing agricultural picture in Canada. V

## Ten Acres: A Thousand Sheep

*This Australian grazier maintains 1,000 sheep on ten acres of irrigated land, and is enlarging his business*

by L. T. SARDONE

**A** GRAZIER at Wellington, in Central Western New South Wales, Australia is running 100 sheep to the acre. In so doing, he is pioneering a project in which sheep are really supported by the production of the land, and not at any time grazed on it. He claims that anybody with suitable land, in any country, can do the same, by running sheep as a poultry farmer runs fowls.

P. T. Hodgkinson has 1,000 sheep on ten acres of Glenrock, his river flat property. He claims that his system, if adopted on a widespread scale, could double present wool production within five years. He also stresses that his project is essentially a wool-growing, and not a stock-fattening scheme. Stock is kept solely for the production of wool, which is why the Merino is used. Sheep that are the best wool growers in any country could also be used.

A ten-acre lucerne paddock produces the feed for his sheep, which are kept in adjoining pens. Three years of experiment, hard work and investment have produced the system which is now paying dividends, and is expected to pay more in the future, now that it

is to be expanded to embrace 2,000 sheep.

The system he uses makes him independent of the weather. He buys sheep in poor condition, during dry periods, and sells after shearing, when prices are high.

Glenrock, between the Bell and Macquarie Rivers, is ideally suited for the system, but the owner claims that any area with a river frontage would do as well. Enough water for irrigation, and a piece of high, well-drained land for pens, are the only geographical necessities.

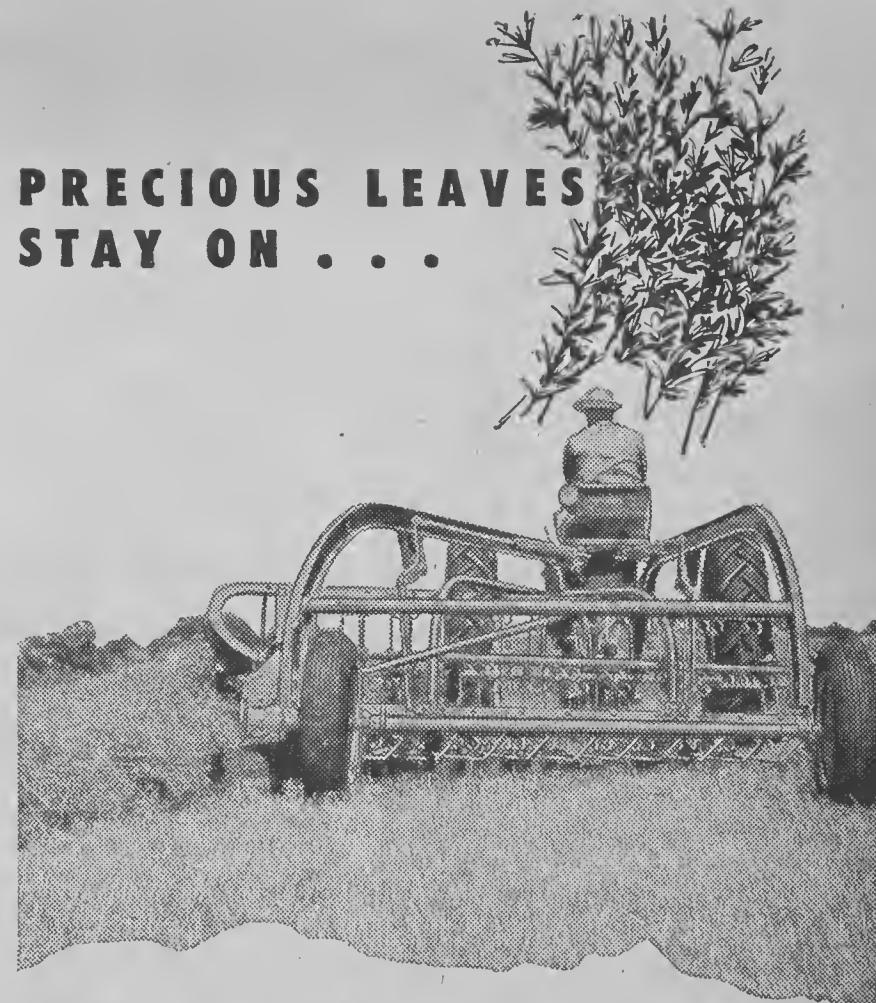
THE sheep are kept in three pens, each 120 by 30 yards. They are built of four-foot rabbit-proof wire mesh, on high ground west of the lucerne paddock and draining sharply away to the north.

The sheep are run close together in the pens, like fowls, and are fed once daily, with lucerne cut fresh from the paddock. The lucerne, two-thirds of a ton each day, is spread along the fence. Broadleaf lucerne, universal in New South Wales and allied to Canadian alfalfa, was sown at the rate of 12 pounds to the acre, on country



*A hundred sheep per acre on ten acres, kept for wool, is successfully managed by this Australian grazier at Wellington, N.S.W., and will be expanded.*

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subject to backwater flooding. The land often lies for 48 hours under seven feet of water. About two inches of fine silt is often deposited, and therefore no fertilizer is required.

During winter, the stock are fed on lucerne hay conserved from the paddock during the spring, summer and autumn.

At first the sheep do not eat readily: they have to become used to the life, and educated to eat in conditions which are so different from a previous paddock existence. However, within a week they settle down to the routine. Poor sheep improve in a fortnight, and are well padded in a month. As soon as they arrive in the yards they are given a drench for internal parasites.

All feed comes from the ten-acre paddock sown in 1948 and continuously irrigated with a spray system. The main idea is to give the lucerne a good watering to ensure sufficient growth, enabling feed to be always present in quantity. The water from the Bell River is pumped by electricity into a main line, from where it is distributed by portable pipe lines.

Each day's feed comes from a swath four seven-foot mower-widths across, the full length (990 feet) of the paddock. The spray system follows the mower across the paddock, which takes 28 days to traverse.

Mr. Hodgkinson has been using a seven-foot power mower, side delivery rake and trailer, all worked from a kerosene-operated tractor. He now uses two horses to do this work, in order to cut production costs. Horses feed on the lucerne, which therefore supports the motive power also. Machinery costs are now high and, as the plant is used for only a short period each day, no great capital outlay is expended while it is idle.

ALL of the conserved fodder is baled by contract for easier handling, but a small hand-baler is quite sufficient. A flock of 1,000 sheep need at least 60 tons (1,800 bales) to carry them through the winter period, when the lucerne does not produce.

Sheep in the pens have been remarkably free of disease, and losses have been extremely slight. Wethers and dry ewes are used and breeding in the yards is not attempted, as lambs suffer many types of mishaps which appear to be unavoidable, no matter how much care is taken.

Main reasons for the lack of disease are a careful examination of all sheep before purchase, and the fact that in 30 minutes Mr. Hodgkinson can go through all the pens and spot any sick or diseased animals.

He estimated that \$11,000 outlay is enough to start such a scheme, once a suitable area has been established. He says he has now brought his scheme to a stage where he considers it possible for a man with limited capital to become a wool-grower.

He recommends that young sheep, or sheep off-shears be bought during dry periods, when prices are low, and that they be carried a year and then shorn. The younger sheep can be carried on for a year more and older ones sold after rain, when prices are high.

Running sheep in this way is a job that requires constant daily work, with attention to every detail, Mr.

Hodgkinson maintains, because there is no margin for error.

Since he has established his project he has every confidence in it. He sees for Australia and countries like Canada the opportunity for many who have limited capital to own their own 1,000-sheep ranch, and see something at the end of the year as a reward for their labors. V

## These Slopes Now Hold Water

ED OYLER'S farm, south of Port Perry, Ontario, lies on a long sloping hillside, falling off to the northwest, and the view from his side door would be worth thousands of dollars in any city. But on the farm, there is a price for such a view.

"Throw a bucket of water off the porch," says Ed, with a sweep of his hand, "and it never stops until it's at the bottom, away down there."

This was bringing erosion problems. Run-off from the barn was beginning to gouge out a gulley through the fields. The bottom land was swampy and unproductive.

Mr. Oyler made a start at remedying this situation in 1942, when he seeded four fields near the barn to permanent pasture. They have been in grass ever since, safe from erosion, and producing, he says, an astonishing amount of feed for the herd.

Then through his local Soil and Crop Improvement Association, he heard of the O.A.C. soil management program. He invited the Soils Department men to his farm to give him some ideas. That was when he began to bring erosion completely under control, and make the farm yield to its utmost.

The soils specialists surveyed the land, laid out the problem areas in strips running cross-wise of the slope. They advised him to bulldoze some brush off one spot so that he could lay out one long and fertile field for easier cultivation. They suggested tile drainage to carry the water off the soggy areas at the bottom of the slope.

All of these ideas would cost money, but Mr. Oyler, a well-known Holstein breeder who began to learn farming in this country as a hired man, and is now recognized as one of the leaders of his community, saw them as answers to his problem.

He soon had a bulldozer digging holes to bury giant rocks. He tore off the brush, laid the tile drains, seeded grass waterways where necessary, and after a discussion of his crop needs with the soil specialists, planned a crop rotation for the entire farm.

Now he says the farm is producing more grass and hay and grain. He grows corn as well, finds that the 98 acres of land can easily support the 15 to 20 head of Holstein cows, and a total of 40 head of stock. He puts up both grass and corn silage, as well as hay, for winter feeding.

Now, too, a bucket of water thrown from the kitchen porch is absorbed by the soil long before it reaches the bottom of the hill. The long fields save hours of time each year, and erosion has almost ceased to be a problem. V



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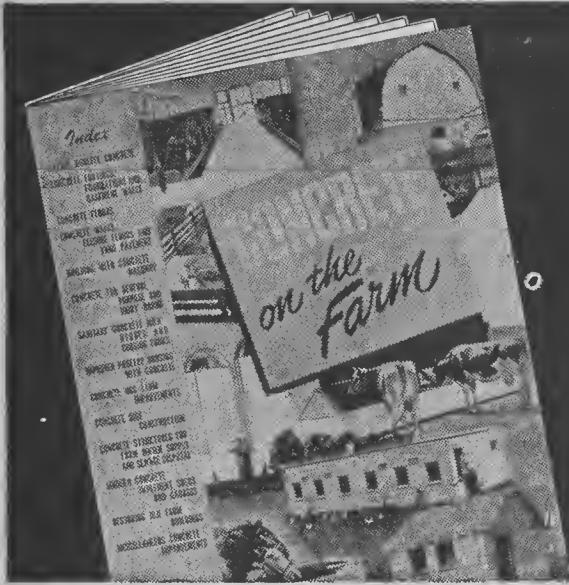
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## It Pays To Specialize

WHEN a farm starts to go to seed it doesn't necessarily mean the beginning of the end: if it's seed crops you're talking about, it often means the beginning of prosperity. This is the day of the specialist, and grain farmers who specialize in seed crops generally have a bit of an edge when it comes to markets and prices.

Dave Johnston, who farms about 1,500 acres in the Moose Mountain area, near Arcola, Saskatchewan, has let his acres go to seed with such success he's now in his second year of probation for classification as a grower of elite seed. Before you can be certified as an elite seed grower your seed has to pass muster for three consecutive years.

Dave was born 35 years ago near Kisby, the next station west of Arcola, on a farm homesteaded by his grandfather in 1898. In 1947 he bought his present farm, and moved onto it in 1950.

"That was some year to start a new venture," he recalls with a grin. "It was one of those late, wet springs, and four of us worked night and day to get my crop in. Later, a bad frost came along and I lost most of it."

Hard luck is "old hat" to grain farmers in the Arcola district, and they've generally managed to bounce back each year for another try. The area was dried out during the 'thirties, and has the doubtful distinction of being located in the rust belt. But now there is Selkirk wheat to combat the rust; and there has also been a swing toward more livestock on the grain farms of the district. A local cattlemen's association was formed this fall, and yards built to handle auctions of feeder cattle. If a serious dry spell comes again, the farmers have plans to meet that, too, because, like Dave, most of them have catch basins surveyed so they can store part of the spring run-off from nearby Moose Mountain.

On the Johnston farm, a half-section has been set aside as pasture for the 50-head, commercial beef herd, but most of the remainder is under cultivation. The farm's beef production could be greatly increased by irrigating with water from Moose Creek, which borders the pasture, but Dave has had good results from his seed grain crops so far and hasn't found this necessary.

This year, his cropping program included registered wheat, oats, and flax seed, plus 47 acres of a new Durum wheat (D.T. 136) that he is growing under contract for the Federal Department of Agriculture. As this wheat hasn't been tested enough to be declared a suitable variety yet, all contract growers have to turn their production back to the Department for distribution.

When it comes to wheat, Dave is a booster for the new rust-resistant variety, Selkirk. During the rust epidemic of 1954 he lost 90 acres of Thatcher to the disease, but 50 acres of Selkirk he was testing for the government, under a similar contract, came through in fine shape. That was proof enough for him—most of his wheat acreage is in Selkirk now. V

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## Why Not Sheep In the North?

Continued from page 12

It is generally figured that what will feed one cow will feed seven sheep. To be safe, let us say that six sheep equal one cow, and leave a little leeway. With cattle, a 100 per cent calf crop is almost unheard of, while with sheep 120 per cent is not unusual. In some cases the lamb crop may even be higher, with a good percentage of doubles and some triplets. Even figuring 100 lambs from 100 ewes at present prices, the lambs at \$20 per lamb will show a fair return. The equivalent in cows is around 17 head, which would do well to raise 15 calves. At present prices (\$50 per calf), the gross return is \$750, as compared with \$2,000 for the lambs.

Of course, it does not always work out so smoothly, but the possibilities are much in favor of it. Whether you are in cattle or sheep there is always something to take the joy out of life; it's part of the game. The way I see it is that the sheep are done up in smaller parcels, which again spreads the risk over a larger surface.

**I**F you have the grain to feed lambs prior to weaning, feed them and the ewes together for a few days. In this way the youngsters learn more quickly to eat oats. We feed whole oats to both sheep and lambs, in preference to chop.

For winter shelter, an open shed is sufficient. They can get out of the wet soft snow, and away from the wind. Low temperatures do not bother them. Don't keep them in a closed building, or they will get steamed up and their fleeces wet. This often means trouble.

It is a good practice to have a shed, with a few small pens for new or weak lambs and their mothers. Such pens are especially needed if the weather is bad, or if the ewe will not take her lamb. Also have a supply of rubber nipples, of the kind used for human lambs. During lambing the youngsters sometimes don't seem to know how to suck. They soon learn from a bottle of warm milk, even of the canned variety.

The term "dual purpose" is often used in livestock circles. Personally I don't think much of it in cattle (beef or milk), or in sheep (mutton or wool). This is just a matter of opinion no doubt. Give me real good old Herefords for beef, and good mutton type for sheep. I have seen a number of dual-purpose-type sheep as well as sheep raised solely for wool, but I still prefer a good stocky animal for meat. At one time I did not fancy, or wish, twin or triplet lambs, but I have found that a good ewe on the proper feed can raise lambs that will hold their own with the singles.

It seems the regular thing that a man raising sheep gets requests for a carcass of lamb, or mutton. This is all to the good, if one will produce good stuff, clean and well butchered.

When butchering is anticipated, put the animal in a stall, or pen, and starve it overnight. Before killing, have everything ready; then kill, bleed and get the skin off and the carcass dressed as speedily as possible. This

will give you a nicely flavored product and is very popular. We so often hear it said that if the wool touches the meat it will flavor it. We have not found this so. We do, however, aim to keep wool and meat apart, in the interests of cleanliness. Unfortunately, there are some men who are not too scrupulous as to principles, or careful when handling the meat. They peddle old, or sick ewes, old rams, or even buck lambs. This is where the meat gets that discouraging flavor, which is augmented by fermentation of food in the stomach of an unstarved animal. So do it right and customers will look you up. A good reputation is valuable

and takes time to build up, but is so easy to lose.

In winter feeding we don't use feed racks or feed in a corral. We feed either on a field which is to be summerfallowed, or on a clearing. There are good reasons for this. First, most of the manure is spread by the stock on the land, thus doing away with cleaning sheds and corrals. By feeding away from the place, the sheep get exercise. Also, in feeding on a clearing there is still the benefit of the manure; and most of the brush is trampled or browsed, making a clean job. To feed, we just drive around the field pitching the hay off as we go,

moving over so as to cover the whole space. A certain amount of hay will not be palatable. This is plowed in with the manure and builds up the soil, something which most of our northern soil needs.

Now someone may say: "This all sounds very nice, but what about predatory animals?" A very good question. We have some predators, chief of which is the timber wolf. He is the worst too, but owing to the work that the Game Branch has done, and is still doing, he is getting scarcer. If the department keeps up the good work, wolves and rabies will be very considerably reduced.  $\checkmark$



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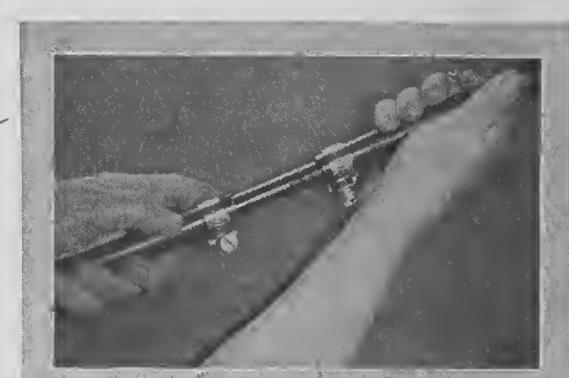
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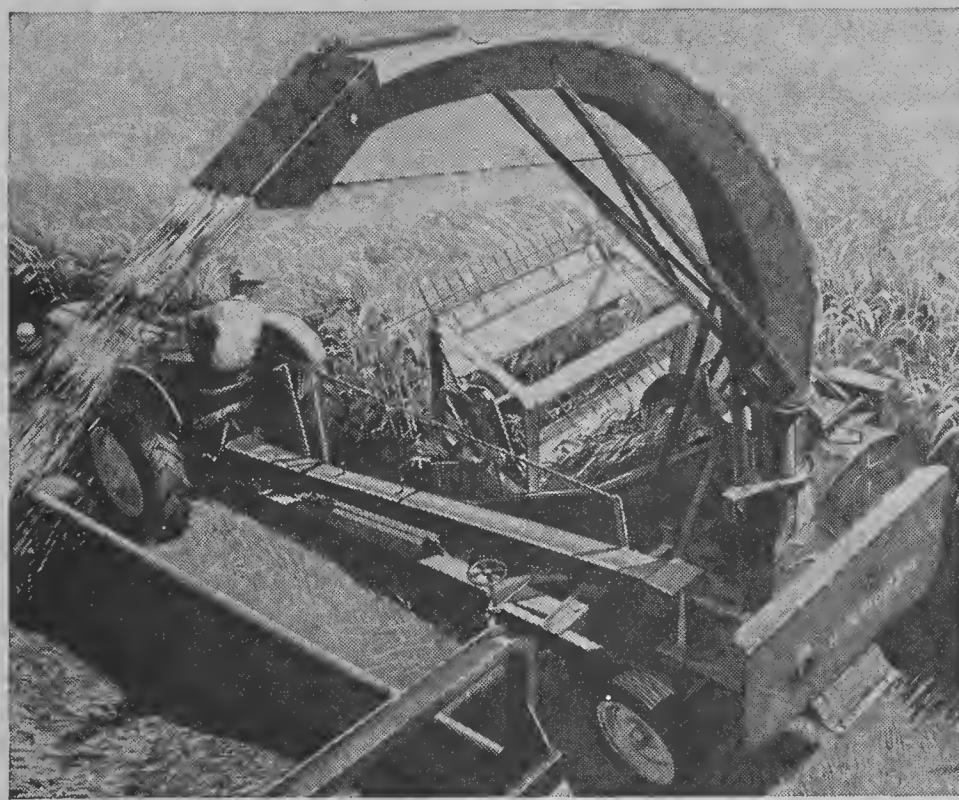
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## Fitting the Farm To Soil and Climate

*Grassland farming was called for by a combination of frost danger, moisture conditions, grey-wooded soil and inclination*

ALF ROSE farmed in the drought struck Hanna country, until 1932. Then, with his fields dried up and the country rapidly emptying of settlers, he decided that it was the path of wisdom to move. His searching took him to the Rocky Mountain House area of the foothills, one of the oldest parts of the province. It was near here that David Thompson, the explorer, had set up his camp before pushing across the mountains finally to be the first to reach the mouth of the Thompson River, named after him. The district had been a fur-trading center too, and tons of pelts had been carried east from the old fort. Unfortunately, the area had not been especially successful agriculturally.

Even when slim and wiry Alf first sighted the district, farming was still a sideline. It was tree-covered land, with some small farms in the clearings. A few settlers hunted deer and elk in the bush, or trapped during the winter. They broke up a few acres and grew a garden, or a little grain.

But the season was short. Early frosts nipped off too many promising stands. Even without frost, many fields, for some undetermined reason, yielded only modest harvests.

Nevertheless, Alf Rose liked the country. The land was cheap—the only kind he could then afford—and he located on a half-section, which he got for \$300. It looked like grass country, and he wanted a livestock farm. He had had his fill of grain.

LUCK was with him. While he set himself to clear more land, he also seeded down five acres to sweet clover. Half a dozen stalks were all that grew. But despite his failure to get a catch, he learned something else. A soil scientist from the University of Alberta had already established experimental plots in the district. The soil, of the grey-wooded type that covers millions of Alberta acres, presented him with a problem. After many attempts to find the solution, he went to the drug store and bought several different chemicals—to try on plots. He tried sulphur, magnesium, sodium, and others, and as he watched his trials, he breathed a sigh. On the sulphured plots, the grain grew sturdy and green.

It was a major discovery in the search for the secret of the problem soil. For it was a soil now known to cover two-thirds of the entire province of Alberta. Extensive areas could be farmed if the secret could be found. After his first attempt at sweet clover, Alf Rose tried sulphur and fertilizer. It was the answer. He has been fertilizing every year since, has failed only twice since, to get good seed stands, and now has most of his 175 cultivated acres into grass. He grows enough forage to feed his 90 ewes and 40 cows, and still is able to keep a hay bank should a bad year leave him short of feed.

Even with so many head of stock on less than a quarter-section of hay and pasture (normally 30 to 40 acres are in grain), the sheep and cattle we saw walking through the belly-high grass, hardly had to lower their heads to eat. Alf Rose is a serious-minded farmer who regards those pastures as the most important crop on his farm. He admits that he could turn the stock out to pasture a little earlier than June, perhaps, but he prefers to err on the side of safety. He is seeding more creeping red fescue to get an earlier growth for the stock and to stretch out the growing season. To get heavier production, he spreads about 80 pounds to the acre of ammonium phosphate each spring on every field, grain or pasture. Also, he winters much of the stock right in the fields where hay is stacked, so that they will spread much of their own manure.

HIS farm land rolls with typical Foothills roughness, and his fields are cut out of the bush like dots in a broken pattern of deep green. They offer shelter for wintering cattle outdoors. Like so much of the Foothills, they are wet from springs, and drenched with plenty of rain—in other words, ideal for grassland production.

The summer season is short, and the winter is not bitter, but grain growing is undependable. Nearby, during the hot August weather, when The Country Guide representative visited the area, a farmer picked a layer of ice off a pail of water and carried it to town. Dahlias and other flowers were blackened and crumpled to the ground. It was the kind of thing that



*These are some of the sheep on the Alf Rose farm. On a half-section there are 90 ewes and 40 cows, in a program built to suit his soil and climate.*

# How to buy a car

(and get the most for your money)

Resist for a moment the glitter and glamour of the beautiful Plymouth. Consider each of the new cars with your head, not your heart.

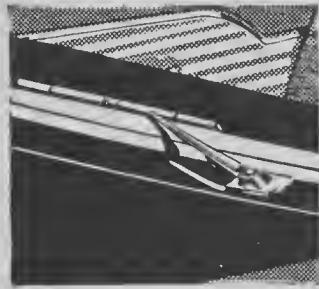
Ask yourself how long their type of styling will retain its freshness. For example, you can now enjoy Plymouth's up-swept rear fenders and taut, tailored lines that have set the trend for things yet to come. Result: a Plymouth will look modern for years, have consistently higher value.

Above all, find out about the hidden values—such as Plymouth's sturdy box-type frame, Oriflow shock absorbers, and 2-cylinder front brakes—that give you more car for your money.

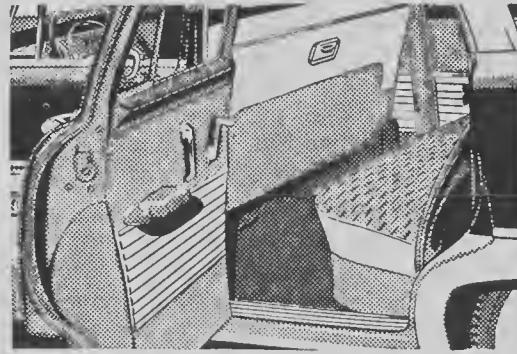
Think of power, too, not solely in terms of Plymouth's verve and vigour, but also with tomorrow's upkeep in mind. Look for built-in features like the floating oil intake and shrouded fan on Plymouth Sixes and V-8's . . . and other built-in features that mean lower repair bills and continued high power a year or so from now.

Shown below are a few of the extra-quality features of the '56 Plymouth. Your Plymouth dealer can show you many more. See him soon . . . see why *it pays to purchase a Plymouth!*

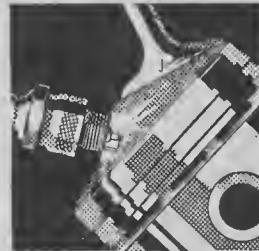
**With all of its high-quality features, a Plymouth is easy to buy!**



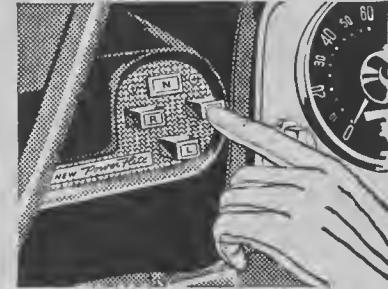
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hangs over grain-growing in the Foothills. It emphasized the vital importance of grass fields.

Alf Rose started with alsike and timothy as the components of his mixture, but now he is swinging to alfalfa, alsike, and red clover, with creeping red fescue and brome added. With ewes that graze the fields intensively, he is forced into a careful livestock management program. For example, he must worm the ewes at least once a year, keep a sharp eye out for coyotes, and bring the flock home each night. He manages to get his

April lambs up to about 100 pounds, or more, each year, by October.

Alf also sells his calves in the fall, as a rule. His own program calls especially for grass. He rounds out his farm operation by milking a few cows each summer, with the help of sons Jim and Norman, and ships to the co-op creamery in Rocky Mountain House. Alf has seen nearly a quarter-century of farming in the wooded Foothills and has never regretted leaving the plains. On his little grass farm, he has built up a solid farm enterprise. V

## Grass Fed In the Feedlot

*Delivered fresh from field to the consumers  
70 acres of grass took care of 500 steers*

**N**o man with an eye for good cattle could pass the Verne Kaufman feedlot just north of Woodstock, Ontario, without turning off the highway for a closer look. Last summer, 500 good western steers were on feed there, under a system that may be unique in the province.

Mr. Kaufman has turned his entire 100-acre farm to grass, and equipped it with a forage harvester and power box. He clips the pasture and hauls it to the feed bunks rather than allow the steers to tramp over the land to do their own grazing.

The 70 acres not included in farm-yard, or feedlot, produced sufficient roughage for all 500 steers too, which he sold last fall to grade 80 per cent reds and 18 per cent blues. He doesn't claim that this system has any wide application, but he does say that he is going to continue with it.

Now he has dammed up a creek running through the farm, which will permit him to irrigate every acre of it, if he so desires.

Here is the story of his first year's results with the system. The steers, bought as calves in the fall of 1954, in western Canada, were wintered out in the Woodstock area, on the basis of so much per pound for the gains made. They went into his own lot about May 1 averaging 622 pounds, after gaining over 200 pounds each. Daily gain in the feedlot averaged 1.7 pounds during the summer, for a total of 347 pounds per steer. This is not a spectacular gain, but Mr. Kaufman points out that many of the steers

were weighed into his lot after coming only three or four miles from where they wintered, but were weighed out to market after a full shrink.

Cost of the grain going into the steers—bought in an area where corn is grown as a cash crop and can be purchased in volume at comparatively low prices—was still 16½ cents for every pound of gain made by the steers. He sold them in October and November, for prices which averaged \$21.50. This would leave a margin, over the cost of the grain, of five cents per pound, which taken in the entire lot, means \$8,675. This sum plus any margin over the price originally paid for the calves would equal the value Mr. Kaufman puts on his grass—about \$100 per acre.

From this gross margin, of course, expenses must be deducted. This operation required the forage harvester, power box and tractor, one man's labor full-time during the feeding season, the cost of feed bunks, and the 130 tons of crushed stone to prevent the feedlot from becoming a quagmire, and the cost of seeding and fertilizing the land. This year there were no losses, but interest on the money invested is a charge against revenue.

The result provides pretty good evidence that this isn't a quick way to get rich. For his first attempt, however, Mr. Kaufman is happy with the result. He sees ways now to improve efficiency, and admits that there may very well be a bigger margin in feed-



*The use of disinfectant in the concrete aprons beside the water troughs has reduced foot rot in his herd, says Verne Kaufman, of Woodstock, Ont.*

ing a lower class of cattle today, and shipping them before they are fat enough to grade A or Red Brand. However, like many cattlemen, he is prepared to sacrifice some profit for the added satisfaction of feeding top quality steers.

Mr. Kaufman got the idea of mechanical grazing in the summer of 1954, when he had 140 steers on pasture. They were to be turned into a fresh field, but it was rich with alfalfa. Fearing bloat, he decided to cut the grass and carry it to the steers. This worked so well, giving him extra feed from the same acreage, that he decided to enlarge on the idea. At the same time, he read about another feedlot operator in the U.S. who had tried the same thing.

After the steers came into the feedlot, for a week or so they got dry hay, and some grain, about six parts corn-cob meal, one part concentrate and one part molasses. In two weeks they were on grass feed, and were soon getting about eight tons per day. They each got also about eight pounds of the grain mixture. By August, pastures began to dry in the unusual drought, and the grain ration was increased, and changed to ten parts corn-cob meal, one pound of concentrate and one pound of molasses. Second cut grass was being fed by then, and hay was added to reduce its laxative affect.

One man looked after the feeding all summer. He started the day by filling the self-unloading power box with grass from the forage harvester, drove to the barn to pile grain on top, and unloaded this into the feed bunks. After breakfast, the cattle got another feed of grass, without grain, and in late afternoon, a final feed similar to the first. V

## Strip-Grazing Pays on this Farm

By strip-grazing his 15 acres of permanent pasture, Herb Watson, whose dairy farm is at Victoria, in Peel county, Ontario, turns it into the most valuable crop he grows. Even in the dry summer of 1955, his 30 milking cows gave him an average of 12 cans a day from this pasture, for over 100 days. Valuing the milk conservatively at three dollars per can, he figures that the gross value of \$3,600 from the 15 acres was practically all from the grass, because during that time the cows got only a handful of grain as a bribe to bring them into the barn.

Mr. Watson first experimented with strip-grazing in 1951, when he pastured 21 Holsteins on four and one-half acres for 28 days. He recalls one dairy production competition in Wisconsin, in which six of the top 12 herds were strip-grazed. Also, none of the contestants gave up strip-grazing once they had tried it. He believes strip-grazing is superior to mechanical grazing because that system, which has been well publicized in recent months, requires more labor and machine operation.

Mr. Watson uses an electric fence to allot the cows fresh grazing about every day and a half. First, however, he divided the 15 acres into four fields, and last year the cows started into the first one on May 10. The electric fence was gradually moved

across the fields, and by June 20, the cattle had cleaned off the entire 15 acres, and were ready to start over again. So it went through the summer. Grass was plentiful enough that he brought in 20 young cattle later on, to help clip off the grass. If it hadn't been for the drought, he is certain that the herd would have had another month's grazing from that limited acreage.

The grazing method is only one reason for the heavy production that Mr. Watson gets from his pasture. His soil management program first must put the land in condition to grow grass. He has soil tests taken every two or three years. He applies some phosphorus and potash in the fall, and has a cyclone spreader

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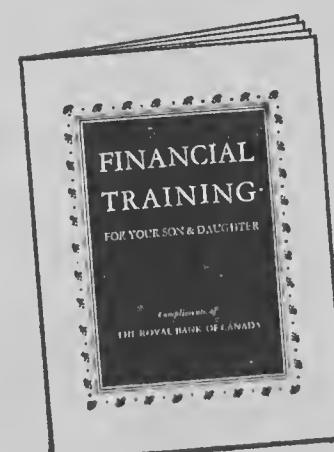
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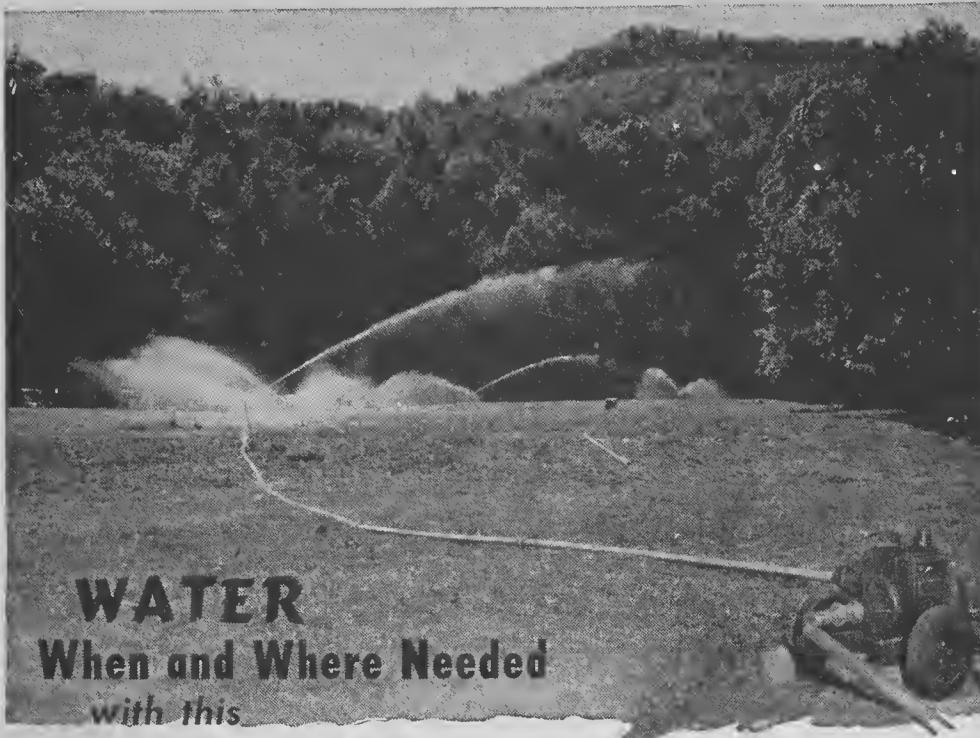


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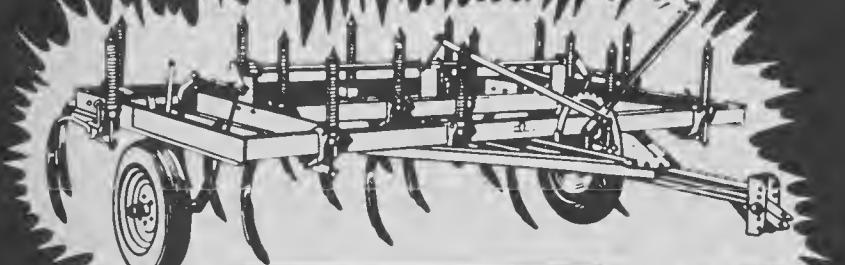
These are some of the reasons why leading manufacturers of irrigation pumping units specify "Wisconsin Power" for their equipment . . . good reasons, too why you can't do better than to invest in a correctly engineered, properly installed Wisconsin-powered irrigation pumping unit. See your dealer — and write for folder S-181.



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attached to the back of his tractor for spreading nitrogen in the spring. In all, he applies up to 300 pounds of fertilizer per acre.

Really, strip-grazing is the off-shoot of another, bigger program that he began to consider several years ago, while on a trip to the United States. It was spring then, and the crops he saw were far ahead of those in Canada. Watching a few of the best-kept farms growing lush crops, Herb determined to do just as well as any of them.

The next fall, he welcomed the chance to take a short course in soil management at the Ontario Agricultural College, and represented his district Soil and Crop Improvement Association there. This paid off in another way. In addition to learning more about soils, he also learned of the Soil Management Project of the Soils Department at the O.A.C. He need only apply, to have specialists from Guelph come to his farm, survey it, map out a program designed to produce the crops he required, and at the same time protect his fertility and head off any erosion. He didn't miss the opportunity.

Much of the farm was rearranged following this survey. A gully on the west side of the farm was beginning to wash out, and was put into a grass waterway for permanent protection. One long 13-acre field across the farm could be created if some brush was bulldozed off, and he had that done. A woodlot on the southwest corner was fenced off as a permanent woods. One field, boggy and troublesome, was tile-drained to a neighbor's pond. A crop rotation was laid out for every field, that would allow production of the crops that Mr. Watson figured he needed for his 35-cow herd—60 acres of hay, 20 acres of wheat, 50 acres of oats, and some corn. In addition, the 15-acre pasture, formerly in grain or pasture, but beginning to erode because it was on a side-hill, was seeded down.

At the same time, he began to fertilize more heavily than before. Now, he always fertilizes his spring crop, spreading nitrogen over most of the farm. As well, he always fertilizes fall wheat at seeding time.

His three-year rotation has two years of grain, either oats or barley in the spring, or wheat in the fall, and then a single year of hay, usually red clover, with perennial rye. ✓

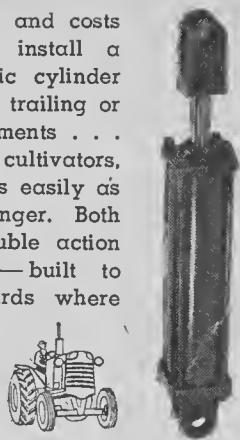


Guide photo  
Herb Watson is practising efficient soil management on his Ontario farm.

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# Science And the Farm

*Electricity from manure — hens that smoke — real purebreds — internal cow fittings*

Farmyard manure is heating and lighting a farm the year round, in Gloucestershire, England. Not only is this said to be true, but also, six cows provide the raw material; the plant costs nothing to run; and the manure gains rather than loses in fertilizer value. Here is the round-about process. The manure is placed in a three-compartment tank, 13' x 8' x 7' in size, allowed to heat up to 150° F., and covered with water. The gas then produced is led to a large steel drum floating on water, from which it is piped to the farmhouse where it is used for cooking and heating. The gas also drives a one-horsepower engine which drives a feed mixer, and a generator which provides electric light for the farmstead. The gas produced amounts to 300 cubic feet daily, the equivalent of £126 worth of bottled gas per year or £84 worth of electricity or £150 worth of gasoline. Straw is said to give three times as much gas per ton as cow manure. ✓

No domesticated animal or crop is really pure. Consequently, to develop a really pure strain in any living organism that would breed true indefinitely, is a genetic achievement of great value. Dr. Allen Burdick of Purdue University has really achieved something, when he has produced a genetically pure strain of fruit flies. These insects, *Drosophila melanogaster*, were used 50 years ago by Thomas Hunt Morgan when he developed the gene theory of heredity. They are favorites for this work because it is only ten days from one generation to the next. Having these really purebred fruit flies will make possible a study of the influence of environment on living organisms. ✓

Hens can be taught to smoke. Cancer research in Glasgow, Scotland, brought out this fact, not, however, in an attempt by poultrymen to add variety to the diet of their hens. It is difficult to teach animals to smoke; and mice, for example, were called "unco-operative." The hens, being at least as stupid as human beings, didn't mind it once they got used to it, and four hens smoked half a cigarette every other day for several months at the Royal Beatson Memorial Hospital in Glasgow. The hens, however, could not hold a cigarette, so a small hole was made in the ear sac leading to the lung, and a cigarette was "smoked" into the lung by means of a syringe. Some of the birds seemed quite surprised, but others disliked the experience. Did the cigarette smoking hen develop lung cancer? This we don't know. ✓

Waste cellophane may have future value for the home gardener and the farmer. Chopped into flakes, with fertilizer salts added, the waste cellophane held the fertilizer better during leaching than did standard fertilizer salts. Workers at Rutgers University in New Jersey also consider that waste cellophane may be valuable for mulching, and as a soil amendment. It can be composted with small amounts of

limestone and fertilizer, to give a final product similar to commercial peat and other composts. If used for a mulch, waste cellophane is easily recoverable and saved for re-use. It is also clean and easy to handle. ✓

Some "True Tall Tales" recently appeared in the U.G.G. News, including one about a Manitoba farmer who struck something solid with his fork while loading hay. "He investigated and found an ordinary gopher, all curled up in a ball. He picked it up and dropped it to the ground. There was no sign of life. It was frozen solid. He took it to his house and put it in



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the woodbox. In four or five hours it was running all over the house." Now read this: Dr. Aubrey Smith of the national institute for medical research of London, England, has sealed golden hamsters in a glass jar. When they have become drowsy and fallen asleep from breathing the same air, they are gently cooled and packed in crushed ice. An hour later, they are thawed and brought back to normal without damage to the brain and only a loss of appetite for a day or two. ✓

A Californian dairy veterinarian who had been called on to perform 200 operations per year for the removal of hardware from the stomachs of cattle, has developed a two-and-a-half-inch by one-inch bar magnet which he gives orally to dairy animals. A test

of 42 heifers treated this way, compared with 58 untreated heifers, brought 33 operations from the untreated animals in the first six months. There were only two operations on the 42 magnetized cows. The magnet attracts metal objects and keeps them from puncturing or wounding the stomach wall. ✓

## Choosing a Lubricating Oil

by CAM KIRK

LIKE most farmers, you've probably wondered about the best type of oil to use in your tractor. Before buying, it might be well to consider

just what demands the engine will make on the oil you put in.

Here are some of the main ones: (1) the oil must reduce engine friction, (2) aid in engine cooling, (3) help to seal compression, and (4) wash carbon and worn metal particles from the moving parts.

These are heavy demands to make on any lubricant, especially in the case of late model tractors, with their high compression ratios and small clearances between moving parts. When the weather is 25 degrees below zero, and the engine not pre-heated, the oil must perform through a temperature range of 200 degrees F.

To ensure that they can meet these demands, all reputable brands of oil must pass two standard tests, one set

by the Society of Automotive Engineers (S.A.E.), and the other by the American Petroleum Institute (A.P.I.).

The S.A.E. test classifies an oil according to its viscosity; that is, the speed at which it will flow through a standard-size hole, at a set temperature. For example, if 100 cubic centimeters of oil takes from 90 to 120 seconds to flow through the viscosometer at 130 degrees F., it is classed as an S.A.E. No. 10 oil. The longer it takes the same amount of oil to pass through the viscosometer, the higher will be its S.A.E. number.

Because of its relatively low viscosity, S.A.E. 10W oil will enable the tractor to start easier, and will also reduce bearing and cylinder wear in cold weather operations. On the other hand, the S.A.E. 5-20 and 10-30 oils now on the market have a high viscosity index. That is, they retain their viscosity characteristics over a wider temperature range, than do the regular 10, 20, and 30 oils. This factor makes the newer oils particularly useful for winter operation.

THE other test mentioned, the A.P.I., standardizes oils according to the amount of detergents, or soaps, in them. Under this test, all oils are classified under five headings: (1) M.L. (motor light), (2) M.M. (motor medium), (3) M.S. (motor severe), (4) D.G. (diesel general), and (5), D.S. (diesel severe). The amount of detergent in each varies from none in M.L. oil, to a large amount in D.S. oil.

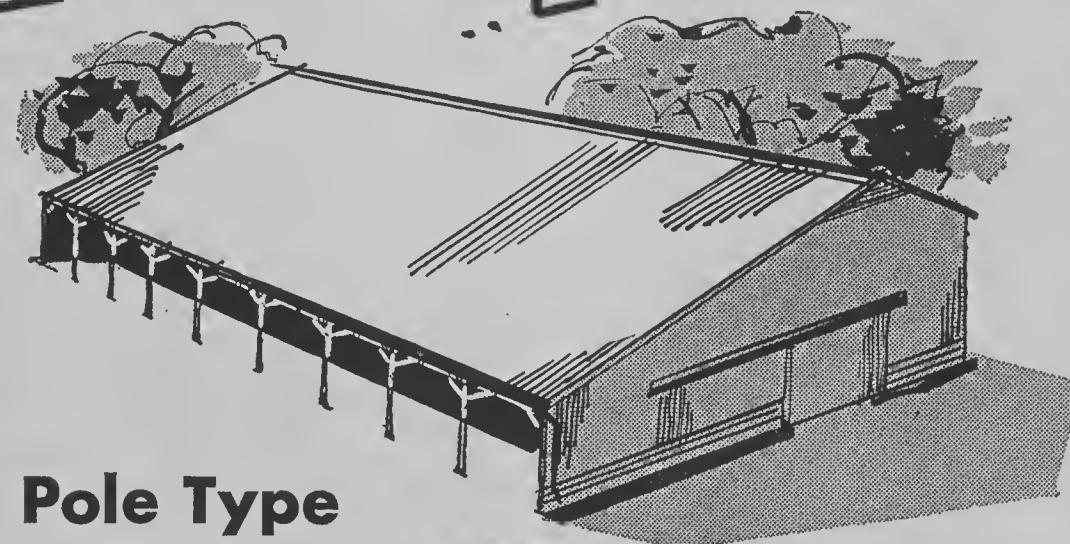
In practical terms, an M.S. oil would meet all demands of a farm gasoline tractor, while a D.G. oil would contain enough detergent for a farm diesel. Although greater amounts of detergent in each case wouldn't harm the motor, they just wouldn't be necessary.

It is these detergents that give oil its cleansing action. A detergent works in oil, as soap acts in water. If you were to wash your hands in water alone, the water would likely remain clean, and your hands dirty. But when you add soap to the process, the water becomes dirty and your hands are cleaned.

A detergent oil washes carbon particles, gum, and grit from cylinders and bearings, and carries these harmful substances to the filter where they are filtered out. During this action, engine parts remain clean, but the oil soon becomes discolored. If you are making regular oil changes in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, dark-looking oil on the dipstick is no cause for alarm. It merely means that the detergent oil is doing its duty.

When ordering your next batch of tractor oil be sure to check the S.A.E. and A.P.I. ratings, and choose the oil that best suits your particular need. ✓

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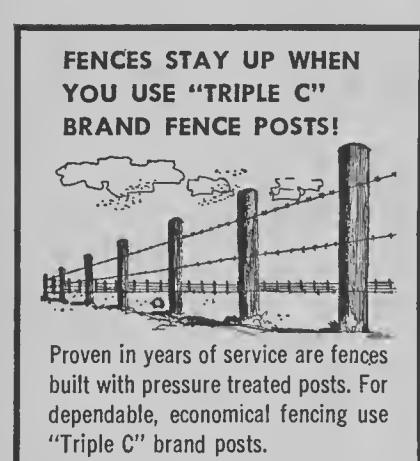
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## Single Day Planting Method

WHY not save time and labor this spring by plowing and planting corn the same day? Harvey Wales of Komoka, Middlesex county, Ontario, used the new "plow and plant" method last spring on his 200 acres of corn. He had heard the method described at the Ridgetown School Farmers' Week by Dr. R. L. Cook, Michigan State College, East Lansing. He says now that it cut in

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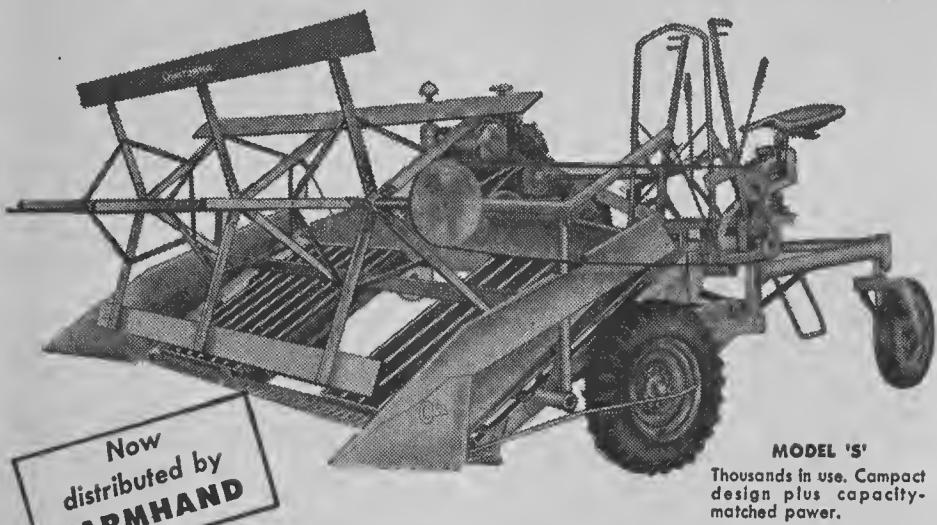
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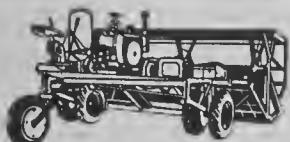
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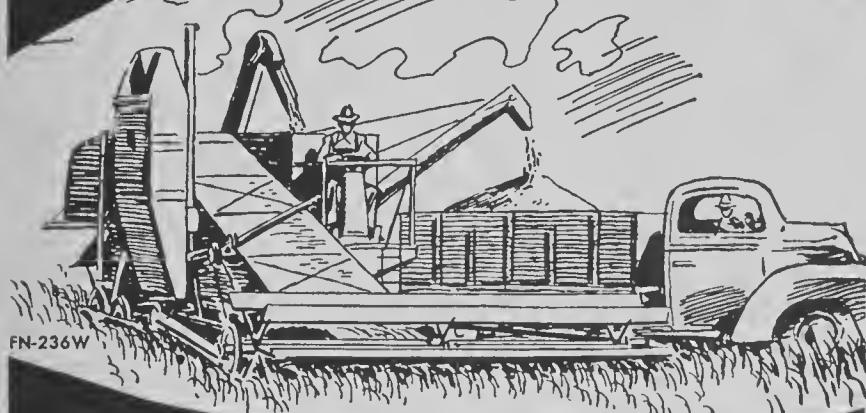


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half the work of plowing, preparing the seed bed and planting the crop. "Despite last summer's drought," he adds, "it paid off handsomely."

Mr. Wales rounds out his corn acreage with 50 acres of tobacco, but plans to diversify still further by setting up a beef cattle operation before too long. His boys are getting big enough to help, and the price of corn as a cash crop has fallen.

Here is how his plow-and-plant system worked. The method requires special equipment. He purchased a tiller made specially for the job in the United States. These tillers come in a size to be hauled along behind a two-, three-, or four-bottom plow. They consist of two gangs of big, heavy, rotary hoes, and have the action of a disk, packer and harrow all at once. One trip over the land with plow and the tiller pulled behind, leaves the ground ready to be seeded.

Mr. Wales, whose land is a loam, lightened by a touch of sand, purchased a two-row planter for the job, one designed to place fertilizer at two depths, one two inches deep near the seed, to give the seedling an early boost, and the other four inches deep to provide a further spurt, once the seedling is well started. A heavy pressure wheel behind, packs the soil over the seed. He has diesel tractor power to haul his equipment, and can now claim several advantages for the system.

First of all, he says, the land is not left bare and vulnerable to erosion over winter after fall plowing. Also, when plowed and planted the same day, it has no chance to dry out before the seed is into the ground, and the weeds have no chance to get started.

"Corn will compete with any weeds that grow, if given an even start," Harvey said. "This system gives it an honest opportunity to compete."

Donald Stewart, soil supervisor of the Middlesex Soil Committee says that while several growers used the plow-and-plant system for their corn in 1955, it requires special equipment, it is therefore only suitable, as yet, for growers with large acreages. It has been used successfully, also, for other crops like oats. Its use is limited to loam and sandy soils—land with good soil structure. Heavy clay or water-saturated soils won't stand up to it. Its advantages, Stewart says, are that fewer trips will be made over the land and the soil will not be packed as hard from the tractor wheels. He believes that the pressure wheel behind Harvey Wales' planter is very useful, because it leaves the soil loose between the rows, for better water percolation, and permits the surface to dry slightly, which tends to reduce the chance of weeds starting and competing with the crop.

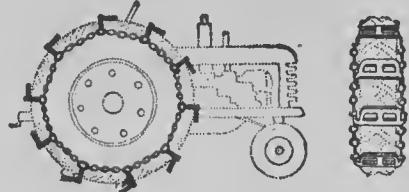
Mr. Stewart suggests some disadvantages, too. During wet falls, for instance, the ground which has not been packed firm may be mushy between the rows, hindering the harvest operation.

His recommendation, with the planter Mr. Wales is using, is that a high phosphorus fertilizer be seeded at the first level near the plant, to stimulate root growth, while a fertilizer balanced according to the soil test can be applied at the lower 4-inch level.

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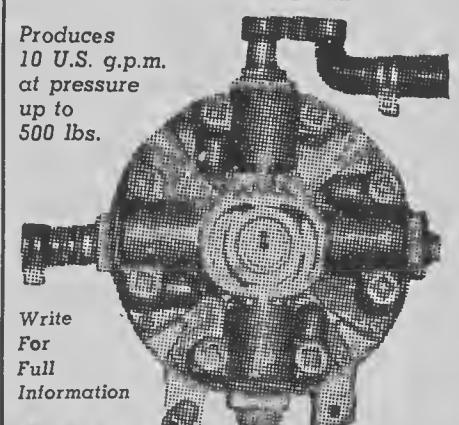
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## Horse Sense

Continued from page 14

feet coming the last few miles, until we hit the traffic. I tell you, that horse knows. Wonderful, too, on a country road or in city traffic. Never see the beat of him. Used to race when he was younger, too,"—Gramp was boasting now, but truthfully—"in harness races. Even now you got to watch yourself. You just draw him with a sharp right hand turn on the rein and he'll take off like a bolt out of a gun and then just try and stop him till he's done his eight furlongs or so. Got caught several times myself when I was wool-gathering. Scare the living daylights out of you. Went through the village once or twice and everything just scattered ahead of us. Something to see I can tell you!"

"I can see," the man nodded, "that horse is a real character. I'd like to have a look at him. Where is he?"

Gramp said, "Over t'other side of the square, not far from the weighing shed," and the man smiled pleasantly and said, "Well, I'll pass the time of day with him if I go that way."

GRAMP wondered if the man had any idea he might buy Roanie himself; as if they would let Roanie go to any stranger, certainly not without pretty high credentials. However, Gramp had a suspicion the chap was really much more interested in a pretty girl than a horse by the way he kept eyeing the young cashier. By the time Gramp finished what he had ordered, he hated waste of any kind, you could see that the man's interest had grown, though it was camouflaged behind a noon edition, another cup of coffee and a leisurely cigarette.

"Nice to have met you," Gramp said, rising stiffly and leaving a small tip. Going over to the glassed-in telephone-booth, he hunted up Joe Carney's number, having trouble with his glasses and with the chained book, but finding it and dialing.

"Hello, there, Gramp," Joe Carney said when he knew who was speaking, "I've been expecting you to call. Can you get up here with Roanie by three-thirty? Pete Wyber's in and he'll drive the rig back, but if you can't make it by then I'm afraid it'll have to stand over till another day. Pete's just got to be back in time to meet a guy who's starting on making some alterations about the place."

Gramp knew all that, but Joe was one of those people who repeat themselves, particularly to those who are old and might be forgetful. Pete Wyber ran Joe's country place for him, and Mrs. Wyber—Joe being a widower—could be trusted, as he said, to look out for the children. "Humph!" Gramp thought. "Let's 'em run pretty wild, she does!" He pictured Pete arriving out there with Roanie and the rig, and the Carney children rushing to assert ownership like young apaches.

"Joe," Gramp said, a slight quiver in his voice, "you'll be sure—all of you—treat Roanie like—like one of the family. He's pretty sensitive, Roanie is."

"Why, sure! Sure!" Joe Carney said in his hearty way.

Gramp wished he could be as sure. Joe meant it, but Gramp couldn't help remembering those visits of his children to the farm.

"By three-thirty then?" Joe was saying.

"I should make it," Gramp acknowledged.

"Fine, fine!" Joe said. "Too bad if you had to make a second trip."

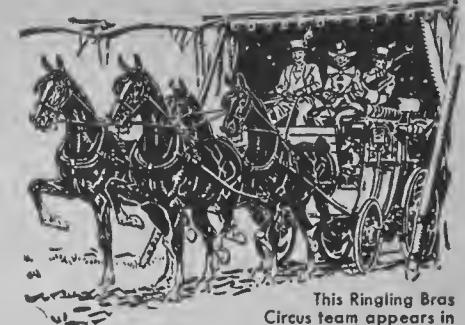
A vein in Gramp's forehead throbbed as he hung up. Suppose—suppose he didn't get to Joe's town house by the appointed time? If he stalled a bit he could get there just too late, and the thing would have to stand over. The respite put a clutch on Gramp's heart. Then he shook his head. What good would that be? He'd only have to come back again, and he and Gran—go through the whole heart-sapping business once more.

"Well"—Gramp braced his shoulders—"the sooner it's over the better," but suddenly contemplating this last short drive with Roanie he felt a bit queer, almost dizzy. By the time he reached the door he had to stop and sit down quickly at one of the tables, most of which were empty now. The girl at the desk saw him, stopped counting up the cash and came over to ask if

he was all right. Gramp said he was, it wasn't anything, but she called one of the waitresses to fetch a glass of water; though Gramp knew there was nothing really wrong with him physically. It was just that there are some things that get you down pretty badly. He sat there feeling grateful to the girl at the desk, thinking how pretty she was, and how deft her fingers. She smiled over at him and made some conversation about the weather and things. First thing he knew he was telling her all about Roanie.

"What a shame?" she sympathized. "Oh, can't you manage to keep him somehow? I wish you could."

"Well," Gramp said, "that's how Gran and I would like it. It'd be something to be able to look out the window where we are now and there in the pasture right back of us see a—a familiar face, as you might say." Gramp managed a smile. "And Gran and I had figured if we could piece out to keep him we'd be able now and then to climb into the rig and go visiting folks just like we always used to."



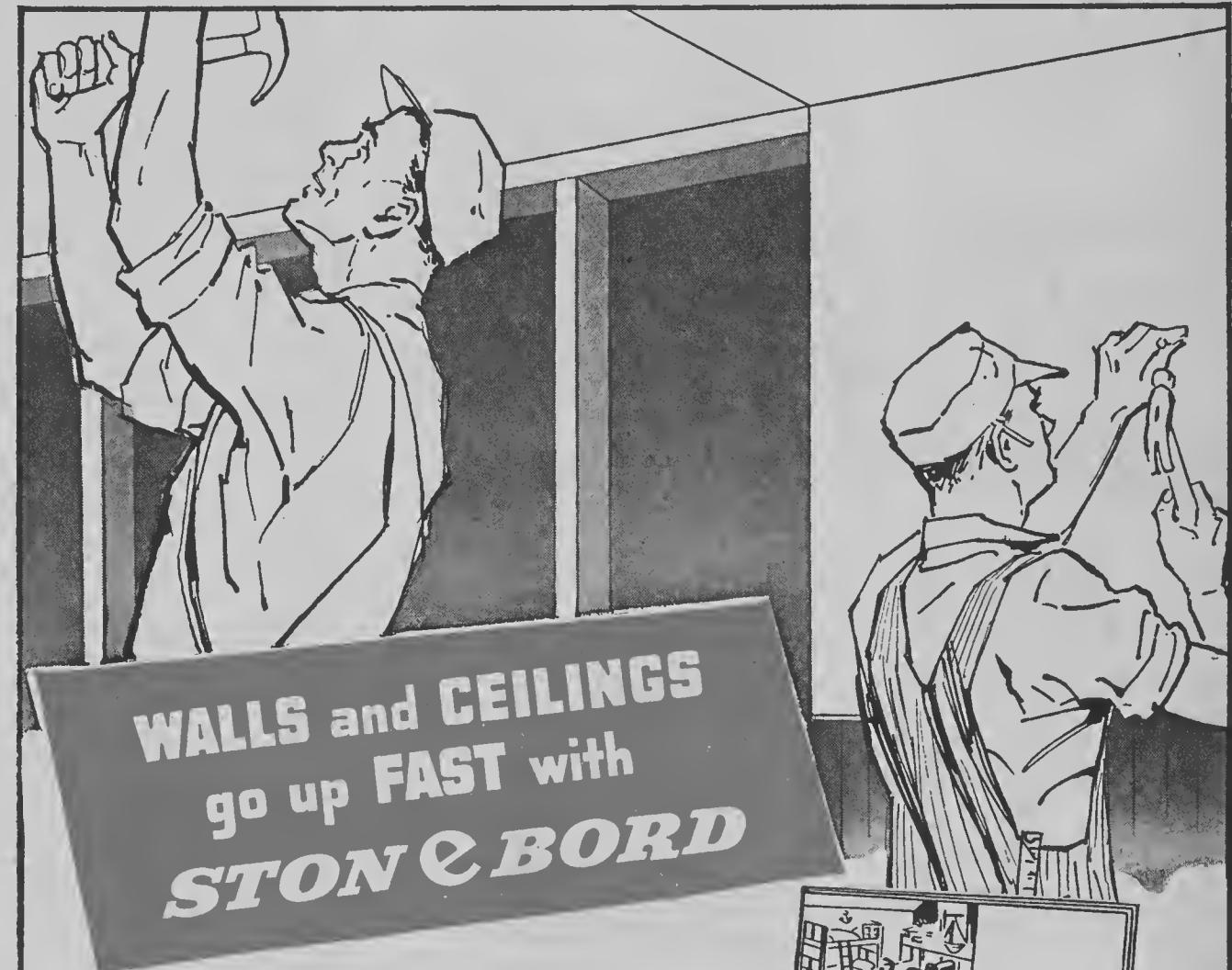
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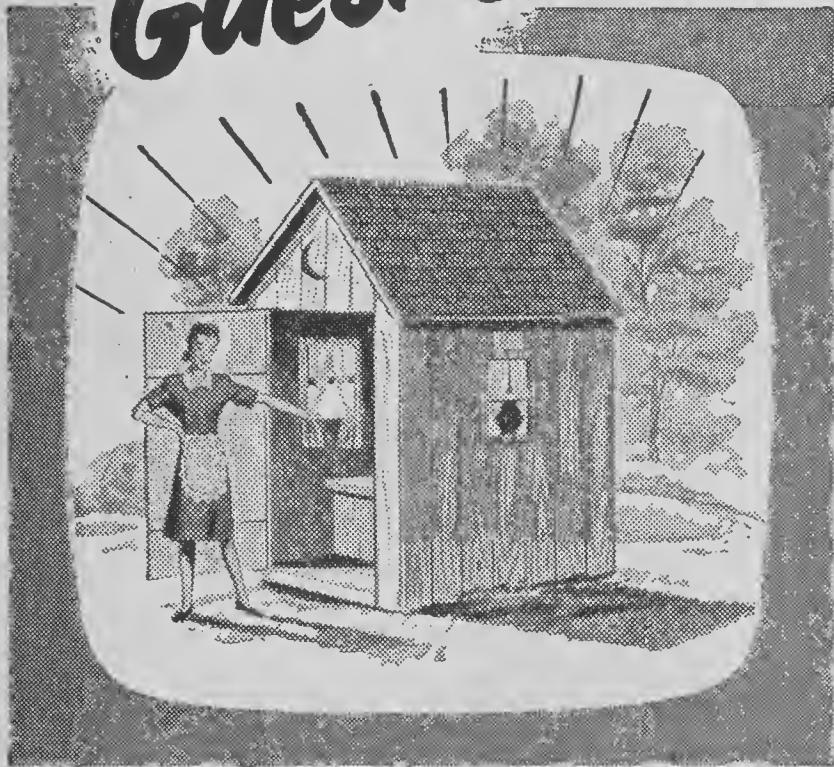


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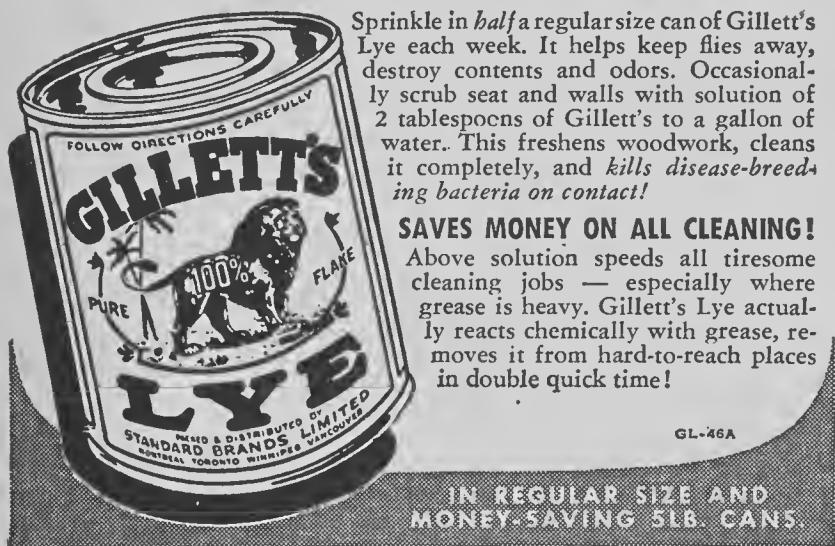
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And it'd please Roanie," Gramp added thoughtfully.

The girl asked, "Where did you leave Roanie?" and Gramp said just across the square and up near the weighing shed. She said, half-shyly, "Could I see him do you suppose? I've got to go that way" — she glanced at the clock and began to hurry — "on my way to the bank."

Her interest warmed Gramp's heart. "You come along with me," he said. He waited while the girl turned over the desk to the head waitress, straightened her hair, did a swift lipstick job, and gathered up the rolls of bills and the rolls of silver and coppers and put them into a stout shopping bag.

"All right," she smiled, "I'm ready."

They went out into the somnolent summer air. Selling was pretty well over or at a standstill. People were cleaning up or getting their trucks ready to leave. Down the broad avenue, which seemed almost empty of traffic now, Gramp could see the intersection where he and Gran used to turn onto the main thoroughfare and, arm-in-arm, take time out for window-shopping and such buying as they did. He wished Gran could see him now with this blonde young girl to whom, crossing the square, he had gallantly offered his arm. Gran would laugh and tease him, and be pleased, too. And it was rather nice, Gramp thought, to walk in the hot afternoon sunlight with someone as young and fresh and understanding as this girl was.

Roanie saw them and whinneyed.

"Roanie," Gramp said, "I want you to meet this young lady." Roanie thrust forward an exploring nose. "I think he wants to kiss you," Gramp said. "I told you he's very intelligent."

The girl's blonde hair for a moment rested against Roanie's mane; she stroked his nose. Roanie looked pleased.

"I've got to hurry," she said, and Gramp nodded. He must hurry, too. It was just short of three o'clock, and it would be at least a twenty-minute drive up to Joe Carney's.

The girl said goodbye to Gramp, and started to press her way through a knot of people who had gathered, attracted by the sight of the blonde and the old horse. Then suddenly Gramp heard her scream. "My bag," she shrilled. "All the money! It's gone!"

Everybody began pushing and pulling and shouting "Stop thief!"

Nobody noticed for a moment that Roanie was in motion. People turned to watch this new distraction. Somebody grabbed Gramp's arm and shouted, "Your horse. It's running away."

But Gramp knew very well Roanie wouldn't run away; and he felt a clutch at his heart. The thief was using this as a means of getaway. He must have jerked Roanie sharply to the right down the broad, almost traffic-free avenue, and — the old training holding — Roanie was away like a streak. Gramp thought he'd never seen Roanie go so fast. Maybe it was after standing so long, or maybe Roanie just wanted to show all these people he still could use his legs, but away he went lickety-split. The cry "Stop him!" was relayed down the long line of parked trucks, but you might as well have tried to stop Niagara. Roanie was doing his eight furlongs in something flat! And at the other end, Gramp thought despairingly, nobody would know the thief wasn't just a man controlling a runaway horse. Then he saw a young farmer grab the white-faced girl and pull her into his car, and set out in pursuit. But Roanie had a head start.

Everybody began to run that way, but Gramp's legs wouldn't let him run; and he stood helplessly watching Roanie's hindquarters getting smaller, heading down toward where the intersection marked a main thoroughfare.

And suddenly, as Gramp stood watching, a curious thing happened inside him. He began to laugh. For the first time that day the funny side of things began to hit him. It started with a chuckle and grew into this laugh, increasing in volume.

Down at the corner he could see a commotion going on and he headed that way. Somebody fortunately noticing and giving him a lift to where a crowd was gathering and a policeman was making his authority felt.

When he got to the intersection there was Roanie standing quite calmly and turning to look at Gramp and whinney. He could see Roanie was very pleased about the whole affair, with people patting him and making a fuss over him. And there was the girl from the restaurant, her face flushed, but her hand holding tightly to the shopping bag with the money. And there was the man who had seemed so interested in Roanie and in the girl at the cash desk, looking pretty subdued

## Farm Comment

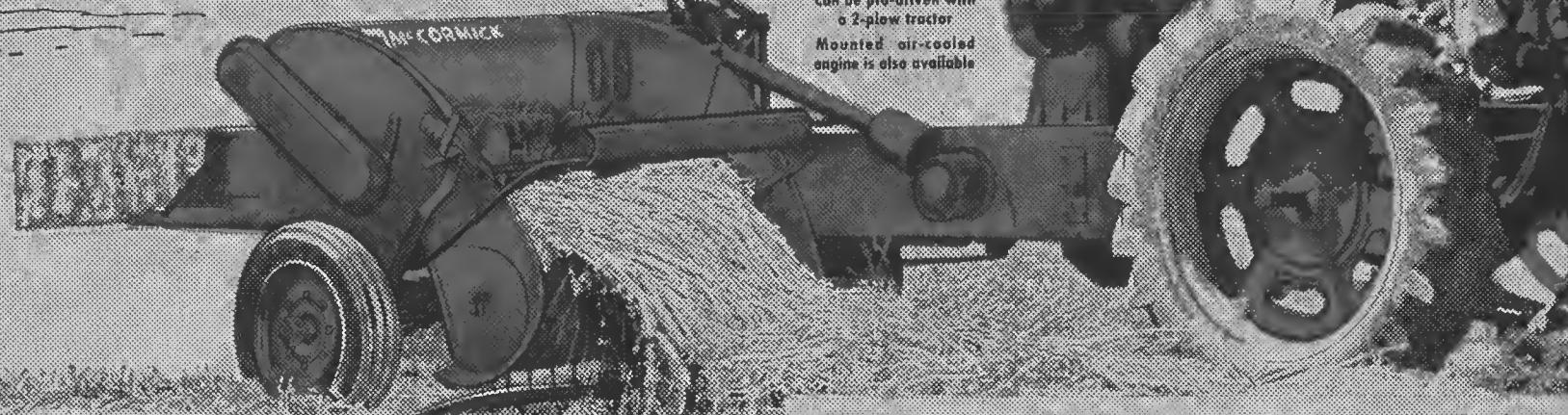


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Pace-setting IH features make it the leading feed saver... built-in strength makes it the non-stop baling champion. Proved on thousands of Canadian farms, the McCormick No. 45 is the choice of more farmers and custom operators than all other family-size-farm balers.

This low-cost, twine-tie, pto baler, *first* made baler ownership profitable on smaller farms. It pioneered low-level pick-up and floating auger for uninterrupted feeding and daily big tonnage. These and other features shown give the No. 45 performance that can't be copied!

## BIG POWER and operating comfort

never before  
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BIG tractor

There's nothing else like it! Here's BIG power, operating comfort, engineering refinements and operating convenience never before brought together in a tractor built for heaviest field work. Check these W400 features: IH Torque Amplifier drive — completely independent pto — power steering — IH Hydra-Touch hydraulic remote control—and many more to help you do more work in a day easier than ever before. Have your IH Dealer demonstrate on your farm the incomparable



GASOLINE  
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# **INTERNATIONAL** W400

### BIGGER STILL! INTERNATIONAL SUPER WD 9 DIESEL

Unmatched for all-out jugging ability, stamina and full diesel economy. Prove to yourself on your own farm the International Super WD 9.

### NEW HEAVY-DUTY INTERNATIONAL 300 UTILITY

Torque Amplifier Drive — Hydra-Touch Hydraulic Control — Fast Hitch — the 300 Utility is power-packed and loaded with features found in no other tractor!

### BIGGEST ALL-DUTY TRACTOR McCORMICK FARMALL 400

With Torque Amplifier Drive, 10 speeds forward to exactly match power to the load. Ask your IH Dealer to demonstrate the IH-built tractor best suited to your farm now.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED - HAMILTON, ONTARIO

and sullen in the grip of the policeman. The girl was laughing and crying a little because the money was safe. A merchant from one of the bigger stores on the market square was saying it was high time something like this happened because a number of them had been victimized one way and another. All kinds of people came crowding around, with Gramp trying to explain how it all happened. Before you knew it a photographer was taking pictures of Gramp standing fondling Roanie, and another one with the girl patting Roanie and smiling at Gramp.

By the time all this was accomplished there was a sound in the air that made Gramp's head jerk up. It was the clock in the market-square striking the half-past-three! And Gramp knew, with a sudden queer swelling of his heart, that it was no use going to Joe Carney's today.

So Gramp climbed up in the rig, and said goodbye to all the bystanders and to the policeman who had made full notes. Suddenly the girl climbed up and kissed Gramp and they got a picture of that, too. And Gramp drove away, waving his whip—which Roanie knew was an ornament.

HE drove home, making conversation with Roanie now and then, and drew up finally in front of Mrs. Culver's. Gran was at the window, and she saw him, and came out as fast as she could make it.

"Oh, Roanie, Roanie," Gran cried, "you've come back!"

Gramp looked at Gran and he saw a light in her eyes he hadn't seen, he fancied, since—well, since some of the big things had happened to them, like the day of their wedding, and remembered moments of their honeymoon, and the day the first baby came or any of the babies, and the good times

when all the children were back with them for Christmas or Thanksgiving or other special occasions. Not for all the world would he have clouded her happiness by telling her that there would have to be another day and another going to town with Roanie for the last time. Let her have this moment.

It was next day, when the city newspapers came, that they saw the pictures, with Roanie, Gramp and the girl, and the girl kissing Gramp. There was a lively running story of the event printed right next the pictures. Then the telephone at Mrs. Culver's started ringing, all kinds of people calling, including the editor of the country weekly wanting to get more photographs. So they came and took pictures of Gran and Gramp and Roanie—but especially of Roanie, standing in front of the house and out in the pasture. Roanie was now quite famous. Mrs. Culver was all excited because her house would be in one of the pictures and she had managed to edge into it herself. She said that for the time being at least, Roanie was welcome to use the pasture out back.

But it wasn't until two days later that the letter came. Gramp sorted it out from among some seed catalogs and farm-machinery catalogs which still came to him and which he hoped would come for a long while yet, just for old time's sake, and from one or two bills needing payment, and from a lodge notice and three circulars. He read it three times, and then, hands shaking a bit, he passed it over to Gran.

"Well, I do know!" Gramp said.

He took the letter with its enclosure back from Gran when she was through with it. He saw that light glowing in her eyes again. He stopped and kissed her, thinking as he always did what a bit of a thing she was bodily and how big in spirit. Then he said, "Know what I'm going to do? I'm going to tell Roanie about this," and Gran didn't even laugh at him. She understood, and came to the door to watch him go.

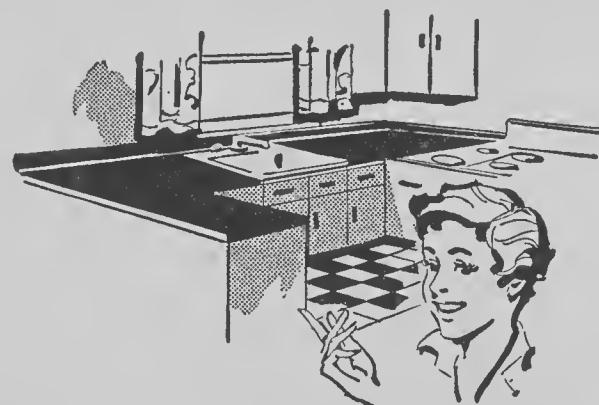
Gramp went on out back where Mrs. Culver's laundry flapped on the line, and across a culvert, and into the field beyond where, for a price, an old horse could live out his remaining days most pleasantly, with intervals of drawing Gran and Gramp around visiting folks or doing a bit of shopping.

When Gramp whistled, Roanie gave over chumping at a succulent clump of grass and trotted up to him. Gramp put an arm affectionately around Roanie's neck. "I guess, Roanie," he said, "you're going to stay with us after all. Look at that, boy, and it's signed by the Merchants' Association, and there's a cheque that won't bounce. It should really have been made out in your name, Roanie."

Triumphantly Gramp exhibited the green slip that had come in the envelope. It trembled in his hand, and of course as it was quite a bright green, Roanie might be excused for the error. Roanie lipped forward as Gramp held it out and almost grabbed it with every intention of eating it.

"Now, Roanie," Gramp said, "don't spoil your record for intelligence. A horse that knows all the traffic rules and always stops for a red light ought to know better than that. Don't you know that's your future there? Do you want to chew up a cheque for four hundred dollars?"

## How to Keep a Farmer's Wife Happy



As a busy and intelligent Canadian farmer you know that having a happy wife helps more than having six weeks in Florida. In fact, everybody on the farm works harder and more efficiently when she is in a good frame of mind. Most important of all, you just *like* to see her happy.

During those long hours between sunrise and sunset you have quite a bit of time to think. Sure, you're working, but you have time to think. Tomorrow, we suggest you take some of that time to add up the number of hours your wife spends in the kitchen on an average day. Must be plenty.

What we're getting around to is this. Are you sure the kitchen couldn't be just a little gayer, a little brighter, a little easier to work in, a little easier to keep clean? Have you looked at the walls, or the counter tops, or the table tops lately? We didn't think so.

There's a man near you who could give you some good ideas in this connection. He probably sells lumber and other building supplies, but he sells our product too. It's Genuine Arborite. We use the word Genuine because we have so many imitators—and we don't want you to get stuck with an imitation.

Now about the kitchen and this business of keeping your wife happy.

Genuine Arborite on the walls and table tops will last a lifetime. The same goes for Genuine Arborite Curvavtop, the one piece counter top and splashback with matching Edge Trim. And no matter where you use it, Genuine Arborite is there to stay. It will never need painting or patching. It is resistant to practically all kinds of stains and even cigarette burns. What's more, it can be cleaned with just a simple swish of a damp, soapy cloth!

By the way, you can make the installation yourself if you'll take a few hours off. Just use your own tools and follow the directions you get from your dealer. Genuine Arborite comes in different grades for different surfaces and here again your dealer has the answer—as well as the necessary auxiliary materials such as adhesives, Edge Trim and mouldings. If you have any difficulty, just write us for complete information. Our address is The Arborite Company Limited, Montreal 32, Dept. A-1, Que., or Toronto 10, Ont.

One last suggestion. If we've convinced you to bring your wife this wonderful new kitchen happiness, you better let her in on the secret. You see, she'll have to choose the colours and patterns she wants—and there are dozens of them!

**P. S.** This is one of the easiest but most effective ways of keeping a farmer's wife happy.

# The Countrywoman

by AMY J. ROE

FROM Manyberries the sagebrush stretches east to Saskatchewan and south to Montana. It is an empty, lonesome land of sky and sagebrush flat. Aunt Kate lived here in a home- stead shack on a little coulee. She had a few head of cattle, some chickens and turkeys, and a good garden watered from a dam on the coulee. No rider ever rode through the east lease without stopping in at Aunt Kate's for a meal and a chat. Aunt Kate's heart was as big as the country she lived in.

Never will spring come to us, who lived at Manyberries and knew her, but our memories will turn back to prairie sagebrush and Aunt Kate. As soon as the pussywillows were out on the dam across the coulee, Aunt Kate and Oscar, her hired man, would cut a sleighful of the silver heralds of spring—whole limbs and branches—hitch up the shaggy old team, and head for the village of Manyberries. They stopped at every home in the village, and Aunt Kate would bring in a big armful of pussywillows, while Oscar sat in the sleigh and held the horses. With what joy we welcomed this little fat apple-cheeked old lady with an armful of pussywillows! The kettle was popped on the stove and a cup of tea made in a twinkling, while Aunt Kate and the housewife had a good chat.

After we moved away, every Easter the postman brought us a parcel postmarked "Manyberries" and with the return address of Mrs. Rebecca C. Gross. When the parcel was put into our hands, a lump always came in our throats, but our hearts sang with joy. We knew we had not been forgotten—we had pussywillows from Aunt Kate.

Each spring Manyberries folk will think of a little old lady in an old mackinaw, standing on the willow-edged dam, rejoicing in the beauty of pussywillows, powdered with hoar frost, around a frozen pool. We will remember our own peculiar harbinger of spring—the sleighload of pussywillows arriving at our gate—the smiling apple-cheeked little woman coming up to our front door with her arms full of pussywillows.—DORIS E. HESTER.

## Of Cabbages and Things

WE are fully aware how fashions change, particularly in regard to clothes. Here change is frequent, fairly rapid and easily apparent to the observer's eyes. The adult woman of today may recall, possibly with amusement, some of the absurdities or charms of hats, dresses or other wearing apparel of a decade or two ago. There is no doubt of the appeal of the "new" or "different," even though we may not slavishly follow style trends. Manufacturers, merchants, shop displays, advertising, magazines and the press play an important role in bringing such matters to our attention. All of which serves to create a demand for the goods supplied.

To a lesser degree we may be aware of or concerned with style changes and the new in house furnishings, equipment and in houses. Yet here too, great changes and marked improvements have come. This is especially true in Canada, with many areas emerging from the pioneer or frontier stage

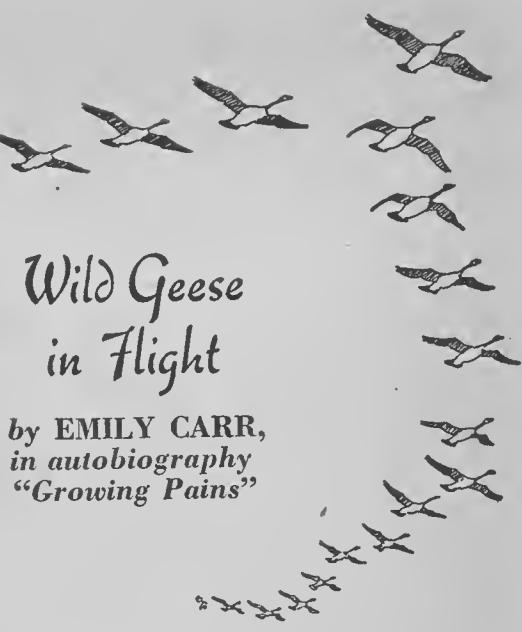
and where we have had an increase in population in recent years. Our houses, being built mostly of wood, rather than stone and brick, have more quickly reflected changes in architectural features. The improvements and the equipment have so aimed at providing greater comfort, convenience and labor saving that they have wide appeal.

The newly married couple of today, may spend more money on a fully equipped kitchen than their grandparents spent on the complete furnishings of their first home. They have devices such as a central heating unit, electric range, refrigerator, laundry and cleaning equipment, of which their grandparents never dreamed. These are new and now an accepted part of our higher standard of living. But perhaps the young people miss something of the thrill, which the older woman experiences when she uses them and remembers the old iron cookstove, which had to be polished with black lead; the upright "heater"—possibly with added drum that occupied space in the living room, and the hand-operated churn or washing machine.

Perhaps what would amaze our grandmothers most, if they were able to return and view today's scene, would be the great number of farmers and their wives who sell milk and cream and buy butter and bakers' loaves of bread for their own use. The large groceries and shopping centers have revolutionized women's habits of shopping. Instead of ordering, as formerly in large quantities—by barrel, large box or 100-pound sack direct from some well-known company or a friendly grocer, the housewife goes on frequent shopping trips and totes supplies home in the family car.

Another example is the increasing use of dried milk, made from fresh whole milk from which the fat has been removed. Milk is dried by a low heat process and passed in a very fine spray through heated air. On contact with hot air it turns to a fine powder, which is pleasant tasting, odorless and nutritious. The per capita consumption of dry skim milk has doubled over the past ten years. Prior to 1950 it was used mainly in the manufacture of other foods, but since that time household use increased from one million to eight million pounds in 1954.

Consider the lowly cabbage and changing food habits! It is in high favor now with the greater use of raw vegetables in the form of salads. It has long been one of the most commonly grown and used vegetables, and ranks high in vitamin C value—often unnecessarily sacrificed by long and slow cooking. From a recent release, issued by the department of agriculture, are notes by C. Walkof, Morden Experimental Farm, of the development of new varieties of cabbage to meet the changing fashion in foods. Eye appeal has had the effect in development types of cabbage with a deep green foliage color also red cabbages as these, because of their distinctive colors, lend interest to a salad. Smaller heads are preferred to meet the needs of present-day small-sized families. The new types have fine-textured, closely spaced leaves.



## Wild Geese in Flight

by EMILY CARR,  
in *autobiography*  
"Growing Pains"

HARK! Hark! High up in the blue, above the clearing, wild geese migrating. Honk, honk, ya honk! A triangle of noisy black dots!

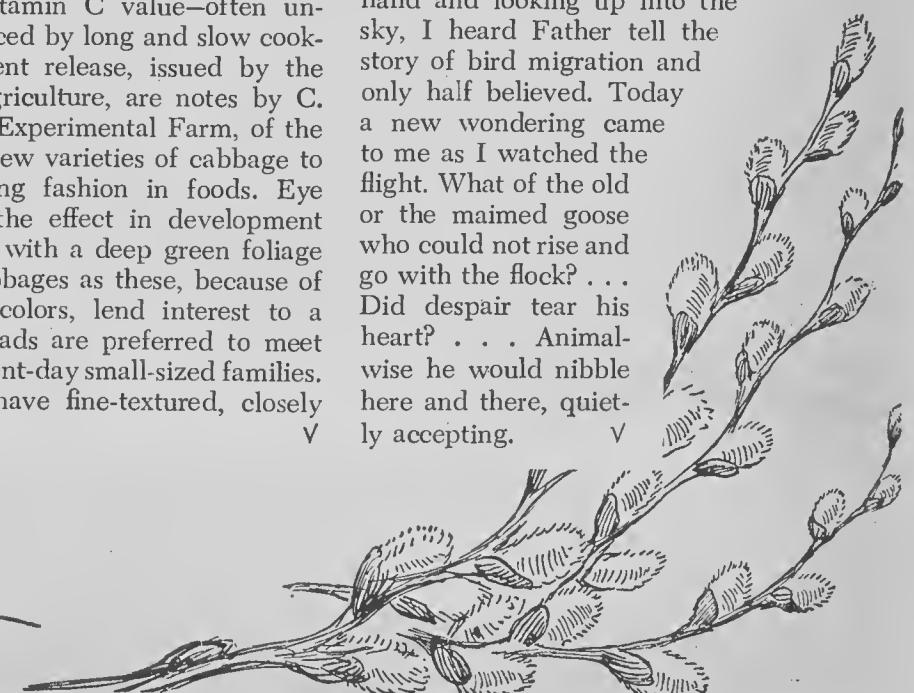
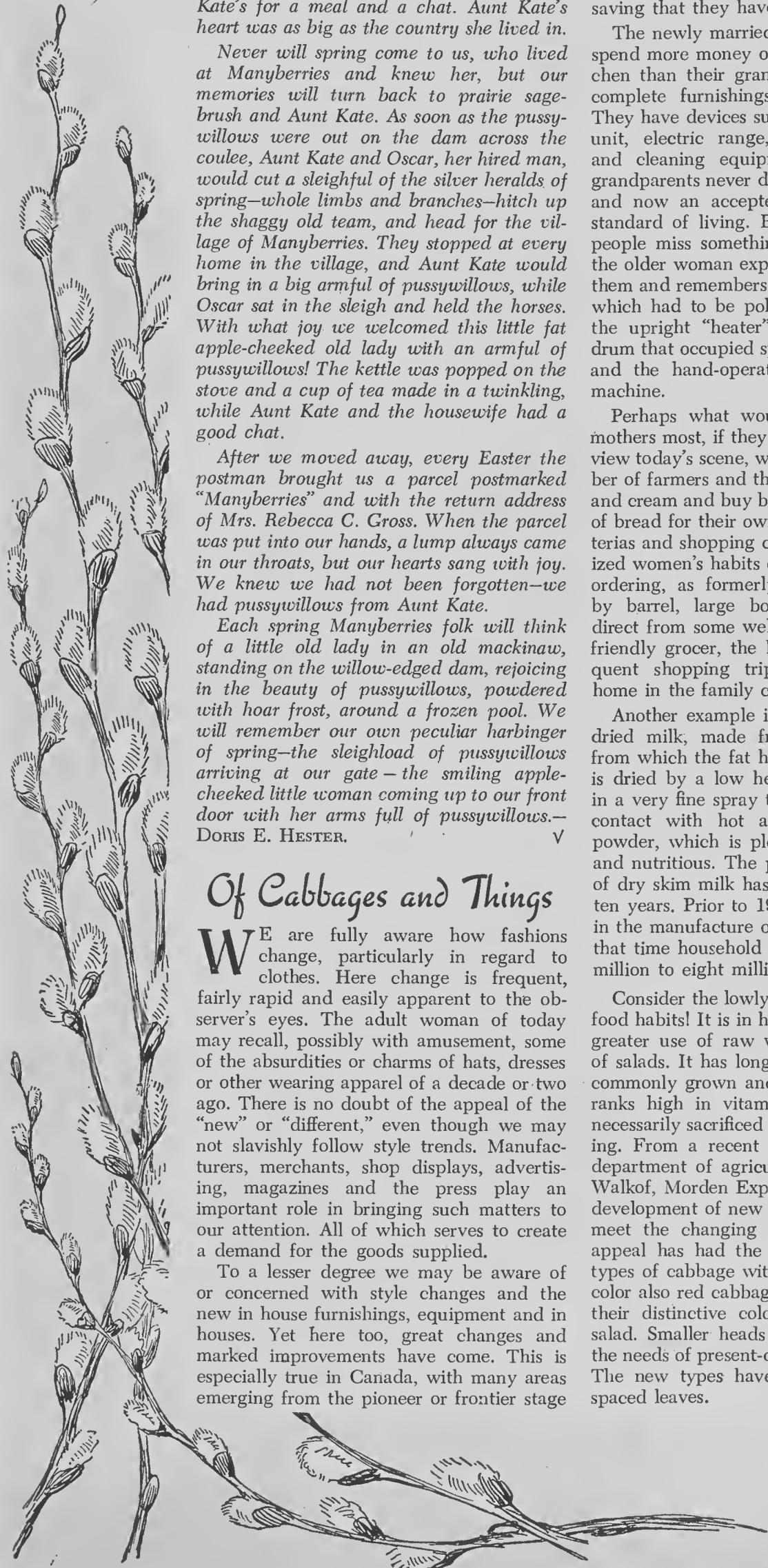
Every Canadian thrills at the sound—the downpour of cackling honks broken, irregular, scattering with the sharp monotony of hailstones while the geese sail smooth and high, untroubled by fear of men, for migrating geese fly far, far above man's highest shooting.

On the ground the wild goose is a shy, quiet fellow. In the sky he is noisy and bold.

I lifted my face to watch the honking triangle pass across the sky. The day was clear, not dazzle-bright. I could look into the face of the sky without blinking. There was just one cloud. The geese caught up with the cloud. The leader dove into it, his flock followed. For a few seconds the cloud nestled the geese to her breast, emptying the sky, muffling the honks, but the company pierced through the cloud. The leader and those few birds that fly in close formation behind him appeared, then the two long wavering side lines of singly spaced birds emerged, to continue their way sailing, sailing into the north, one glad rush of going, one flock unswervingly following one leader. At that height each bird appeared no bigger than a small black bead, evenly strung one goose behind the other, a live necklace flung across the throat of heaven.

The racket passed over the clearing, the sky was again still, my eyes came back to the greying stumps amongst which I sat . . . Today the clearing was not sun-dazzled, rather it was illuminated with spring, every leaf was as yet only half unfurled and held light and spilled some.

Today at 70 I marvelled more at the migration of the geese than I had at the age of seven when, standing in our cow-pasture holding Father's hand and looking up into the sky, I heard Father tell the story of bird migration and only half believed. Today a new wondering came to me as I watched the flight. What of the old or the maimed goose who could not rise and go with the flock? . . . Did despair tear his heart? . . . Animal-wise he would nibble here and there, quietly accepting.





For nutritious after-school snack or meal dessert a pudding mix is tops.

**S**PRING is a busy season on the farm, both indoors and out. In spite of extra duties, the tasks of meal planning and preparation remain for the housewife. The keener appetites of her family must be satisfied with nourishing and wholesome meals. She may also have to cope with unexpected visitors, casual callers or helpers. At such a season, the home-maker looks for quick and ready aids which will save time, thought and energy.

Food mixes and semi-prepared foods have become highly rated for their convenience in meal planning and preparation. They have been available for several years but not in the great variety seen today. Veteran items such as pancake and biscuit mixes appear on grocers' shelves along with a greatly expanded list of relative newcomers: cake, pie, waffle, icing, gravy and even fudge. In addition there is a growing supply of mix-type or semi-prepared foods: quick rice, tapioca, potato, jelly powders, instant puddings, tea and coffee, powdered flavored drinks and mixed salad dressing in powdered form.

Mixes are so made that with the addition of water or milk, stirring, and a few minutes' cooking or baking, the food is ready for the table. Time-consuming procedures of assembling ingredients, measuring, creaming and sifting are eliminated.

Quick mixes, in particular cake and biscuit mixes, are made from specially selected ingredients. Cake mixes for example are prepared from special individual recipes—and not from one "master mix" to which different flavors are added. Ingredients are carefully chosen, exactly measured and combined to give the best possible mix for each type of cake. In this way manufacturers are producing distinctive mixes which satisfy all tastes.

There is a wide assortment from which to choose; white, chocolate, spice, honey spice, gold, angel food, gingerbread and fruit cake. Two intriguing new flavors are chocolate malt, containing real malted milk and peanut delight with real peanut butter.

When purchasing cake mixes, there are a few points for the shopper to consider. Some brands cost more than others. Before buying the low-price article check to see whether it contains eggs. The inclusion of eggs in a mix will usually increase the cost but

the preparation time will be slightly reduced. Some manufacturers advise the addition of one or two eggs by the housewife, just prior to baking. They claim that this practice yields a cake with a more satisfying "homemade" flavor, greater volume, extra moistness and better keeping quality.

Be sure to note the size of cake the mix will make. Most mixes produce a standard size cake which requires one 8" or 9" square bake pan. Others contain 20 ounces, which yield a larger cake. If the larger mix is purchased you will need two 8" or 9" round layer pans, 1½" deep or two 8" square pans or one oblong pan 13" x 9½" x 2". It is most important to select the correct pan size as the too-small pan will allow the batter to run over in the oven, spoiling the cake and necessitating a major oven cleaning job.

**S**OME women consider that cake mixes are more expensive than the homemade food. Surprising as it may seem, some mixes are actually cheaper than a similar homemade item. When you take into consideration the actual value of the ingredients which are combined to make a cake, the total cost may amaze you—even if you omit the expenditure of time for assembling, preparing and combining them. When we take ingredients from the cupboard shelves, we do not usually think in terms of five cents for sugar or eight cents for another necessary item. But the cost soon mounts up.

Time involved is another important consideration. The housewife's time is valuable, particularly in a rush season or when she must turn out a cake or dessert quickly. For example, in assembling ingredients for a chocolate cake she may find that someone has "borrowed" the box of soda or that another essential item was omitted from the last shopping list. She must hurriedly substitute another recipe. The ensuing fluster and inconvenience may result in less care than usual being exercised in measuring the ingredients, or an item may be omitted altogether! At such a time, a prepared mix would be a blessing indeed. The initial cost

# MIXES . . .

## quick and handy

*An ever-growing list of quick mixes and semi-prepared food products on the market provide the housewife with aids for saving time and energy in meal planning and preparation*

by PHYLLIS A. THOMSON

of a mix should be offset against its convenience and the time saved.

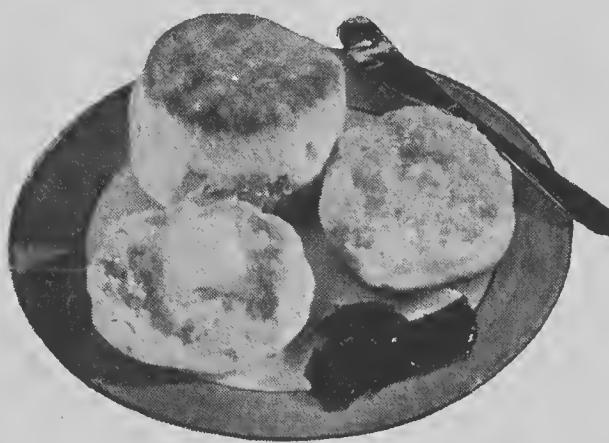
The Consumers' Union of the United States tested 25 popular cake mixes and compared them with homemade cake, carefully prepared from well tested recipes. Trained home economists judged the baked products. Most of the prepared-mix cakes tested were as pleasing in shape, volume and general appearance as the homemade

making. Each particle of flour is coated with shortening in the homogenization process which keeps the liquid from reaching the flour and thus from making the pastry tough. Some new pie mixes are available in stick form. A package containing four sticks, for example would make two double-crust pies or four single-crust pies.

**L**ITTLE helpers will really enjoy preparing food mixes. Even a young child can make an "instant" pudding and a slightly older one can manage a simple cake. For the child, who at times dislikes drinking milk, let him mix an uncooked pudding. Having made the dessert himself he is eager to taste the finished result and the milk taken in this form is enjoyed. The use of mixes will interest and encourage children to help with meal preparations. They will derive a sense of accomplishment from turning out a spicy gingerbread or rich chocolate brownies. It's fun for them and helpful to you!

Canada's newest prepared food is a salad dressing mix. In fact the mix is so new that it will not appear on the food market until the latter part of April. To introduce the mix to home-makers, a special kit has been prepared containing two envelopes of different flavored dressing mixes, a self-measuring bottle for the added ingredients of water, vinegar and oil and a recipe folder for salads and their

(Please turn to page 64)



Ever-popular item—hot buttered biscuits.

varieties. In flavor, it was found that several homemade cakes were superior to mixes but in general prepared-mix cakes rated consistently high.

Pie mixes have progressed even since first appearing on the market. Some manufacturers are now offering a homogenized pie crust mix which is an entirely new conception of pastry

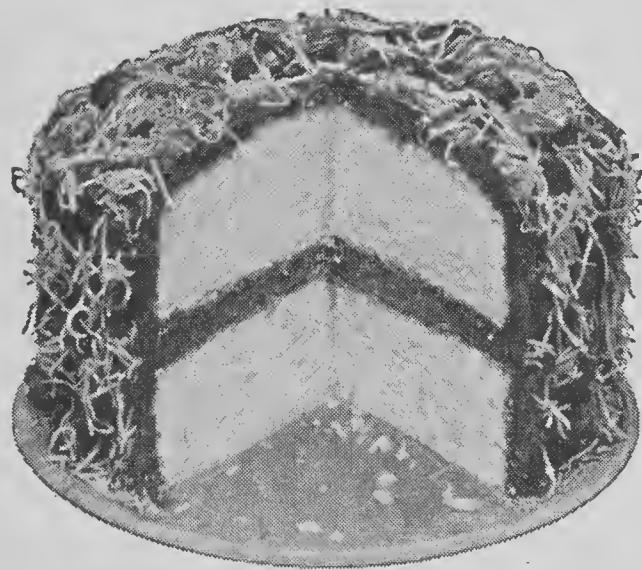


A general favorite, chocolate cake with satiny smooth chocolate icing.

me Great  
White  
Chief-



—love squaw who bake-um up  
heap big Robin Hood White Cake!



**Great White Cake** like this, f'r instance! Lightest, tenderest you'll taste in many a moon — happy hunting for little braves and maids (big ones, too).

**The fixin's?** Thick, thick, chocolate frosting, smothered in crunchy toasted cocoanut. The tribe will scalp it fast!

**The cake?** Moist, fresh 'n delicious, because it's "Home-Style" Blended (like *all* Robin Hood Cake Mixes) . . . with specially milled, extra-fine Velvet Cake Flour and a pure vegetable shortening . . . choicest ingredients. You just add one final and wonderful difference — *one* farm-fresh egg — for tender, tender home-made goodness . . . for a *better* cake that stays fresh days longer.

Im FRESHIE  
FRESH-EGG!  
and I suggest  
you tune in to  
"The Happy Gang"  
Monday through  
Friday!

# Robin Hood

Canada's fastest-selling **Cake Mixes** -by far!



# FULL SIZE 40" RANGE

at small range price!



# Airliner

*Ideal for family cooking...  
big enough for harvest meals too!*



## GENERAL ELECTRIC PUSHBUTTON RANGES



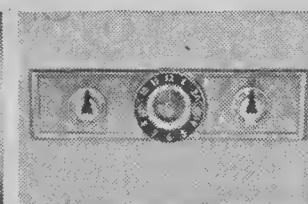
GIANT OVEN — Cooks complete oven meal for 24 at one time!



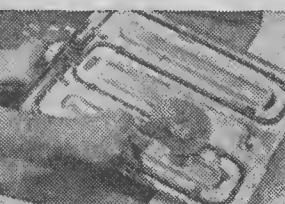
PUSHBUTTON CONTROLS — Five exact heats for each surface unit!



EXTRA HI-SPEED CALROD ELEMENT — Test proven to be fastest electric cooking unit.



OVEN TIMER-MINUTE TIMER — Controls oven and one appliance outlet!



FULLY ENCLOSED CALROD BAKE AND BROIL UNITS — can be washed at sink!

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED



Tender, flaky pastry with fruit filling, a welcome climax to a meal.

## Mixes . . .

Continued from page 62

appropriate dressings. Mixes will also be available individually.

Planning meals with mixes will provide you with many new mealtime favorites. You will soon find dozens of ways to modify a basic cake or biscuit mix to give your family variety and eating enjoyment. From a standard biscuit mix you can make biscuits, puddings, cookies, desserts, dumplings, meat dishes, fish dishes, muffins, pancakes and waffles, quick breads and buns. From cake mixes try devils food, quick prune cake, cherry-nut angel food cake, lemon surprise cake, chipped chocolate cake, little upside-down cakes and fudge-nut cake. Once tried, you will never want to be without mixes on your pantry shelf. Meals the mix way are meals the easy way.

### Velvet Fudge Cake

1 1/3 c. biscuit mix	3 T. soft
3/4 c. sugar	shortening
1/3 c. cocoa	3/4 c. milk
1 egg	1 tsp. vanilla

Heat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour a square pan, 8" x 8" x 2". Mix biscuit mix, sugar, cocoa. Add shortening, egg, 1/4 c. milk. Beat vigorously 1 minute. Stir in gradually remaining 1/2 c. milk, vanilla. Beat 1/2 minute. Pour half of batter into prepared pan. Spread with half of chocolate coconut topping. Pour remaining batter into pan. Bake about 35 minutes. Immediately spread with rest of icing.

### Chocolate Coconut Topping

Mix 1/2 c. (1/2 pkg.) semi-sweet chocolate pieces, melted, 1/2 c. water, 2 c. finely chopped coconut.

### Chipped Chocolate Cake

Make batter as directed on white or chocolate cake mix package, except fold in 2 squares shaved sweet, semi-sweet or unsweetened chocolate (2 oz.)—about 1/2 c.

### Mocha Devils Food Cake

Make batter as directed on chocolate cake mix package, except stir 3 T. powdered coffee into mix before adding liquid. (Or use 1 c. strong, cold coffee in place of water.) Frost with Mocha butter icing.

### Quick Prune Cake

Cook prunes as directed on package until tender but not soft. Drain immediately. When cool, pit and cut prunes into small pieces with scissors to make 1 1/2 c. Or prunes may be cut with coarse blade of food chopper. (One lb. package uncooked prunes will make 1 1/2 c. pitted

cooked prunes.) Make batter as directed on a spice or honey spice cake mix package, then stir in the 1 1/2 c. prepared prunes and 1/3 c. finely chopped nuts if desired. Frost with butter icing. Tip: prunes will go to the bottom if not cut into small pieces.

### Year Round Shortcake

Spread sweetened whipped cream between and on top of layers of tender, fluffy white or yellow cake. (Follow instructions on pkg. for cake.) Top with fresh, frozen or canned fruit.

### Lemon Surprise Cake

White cake baked with lemon filling beneath. Prepare 1 pkg. quick lemon pie filling as directed on pkg. Spread in oblong pan, 13" x 9 1/2" x 2". Let stand while making cake batter. Heat oven to 350° F. (mod.). Make batter as directed on pkg. of white cake mix. Pour batter over lemon filling. Bake 35 to 40 minutes until top springs back when touched lightly. Sift confectioner's sugar over top. Serve warm.

### Fudge Nut Cake

Fold into batter of chocolate cake mix 2/3 c. finely chopped nuts. Frost with instant chocolate icing mix.

### Little Upside-Down Cakes

Use large size (20 oz.) cake mix. In each of 24 muffin cups put: 1/2 tsp. butter; 1 tsp. brown sugar; 1 T. fresh or well drained fruit (thinly sliced or crushed.)

Heat oven to 400° F. (mod. hot). Make cupcake batter as directed on pkg. of yellow, white or honey spice cake mix. Pour half of batter over fruit, filling cups not more than two-thirds full. Fill remaining cups a scant half full for plain cupcakes. Bake 15 to 18 minutes, until tops spring back when lightly touched. Loosen and invert at once on platter. Serve warm with whipped cream.

### Cherry-Nut Angel Food

Follow directions on pkg. of angel food mix. At the last, fold in gently 1/2 c. chopped maraschino cherries, drained on paper towel, and 1/2 c. chopped nuts. Frost with cherry butter icing.

### Cherry Icing

Use vanilla or white icing mix to which is added 2 T. maraschino cherry juice in place of water. Stir in additional juice, a little at a time until icing is of desired consistency.

### Jellied Fruit Ambrosia

1 pkg. orange-flavored jelly powder	1 c. fresh or canned orange and grapefruit sections
1 c. hot water	1/2 c. shredded coconut, cut
1 c. orange and grapefruit juice	
2 T. lime juice	

Dissolve orange-flavored jelly powder in hot water. Add fruit juices. Chill until

slightly thickened. Then fold in orange and grapefruit sections and coconut. Spoon mixture into 1-qt. mold or individual molds. Chill until firm. Unmold. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

### Chicken Shortcake

Pre-heat oven to 475° F. (very hot). Make 1 c. medium white sauce using chicken stock as part of liquid; add 1 c. diced cooked chicken and 1 c. diced cooked celery. Keep hot in double boiler. Using 2 c. biscuit mix prepare biscuit dough, roll  $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick. Cut with floured 3" cutter. Bake 8-10 minutes on greased baking sheet. Cover biscuit with hot chicken mixture; top with second biscuit. Serves 6.

### Swedish Meat Ring

Pre-heat oven to 450° F. (hot). Brown in 2 T. hot fat,  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. finely chopped celery,  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. finely chopped onion, 2 T. green pepper, 1 lb. ground beef,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. salt and  $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp. pepper. Stir in  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. condensed mushroom soup. Using 2 c. biscuit mix prepare dough. Roll in rectangle  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. Spread with warm meat mixture and roll as for jelly roll, sealing edges well together. Place on greased baking sheet. Join ends to form a ring. With scissors make cut two-thirds of the way through about 1" apart. Turn each piece cut-side up. Bake 20 minutes. Serve hot with tomato sauce. Serves 6. Substitute ground left-over meat and gravy for ground beef and mushroom soup.

### Salmon Supreme

Pre-heat oven to 425° F. (hot). *Salmon filling:* Saute until tender  $\frac{1}{4}$  c. chopped onion and  $\frac{1}{4}$  c. chopped green pepper in 3 T. butter and blend in  $\frac{1}{4}$  c. flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. salt and  $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp. pepper. Gradually add 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. milk. Stir until smooth and thick over low heat. Add 2 c. cooked vegetables (peas, carrots, corn or green beans) and 1 lb. tin salmon, broken in large pieces. Pour into greased 2-quart casserole.

*Topping:* To 2 c. biscuit mix add  $\frac{2}{3}$  c. milk or water. Combine lightly. Drop from spoon onto salmon mixture in dumpling effect. Bake 20-25 minutes.

### Pizza Pie

Make a drop biscuit dough. Recipe on biscuit mix package. Spread dough in bottom of greased, oblong pan,  $11\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Combine:

1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. can condensed tomato soup	2 T. finely diced green pepper
1 c. cubed cheddar cheese	1 clove garlic, finely cut ( $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp.)
2 T. grated onion	

Pour this mixture over the dough in pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes in moderately hot oven (400° F.). Serve hot. Makes 6 servings.

### Puff Pancakes

2 eggs	2 T. sugar
1 c. milk	$\frac{1}{4}$ c. salad oil or melted shortening
2 $\frac{1}{3}$ c. biscuit or pancake mix	

Beat eggs with rotary beater until soft peaks form. Blend in milk. Add biscuit mix, sugar. Mix until thoroughly dampened. Fold in salad oil. Spoon onto medium hot ungreased griddle. When puffed up, and bubbles begin to break, cook on other side. Serve with syrup or as a dessert with warm fruit and whipped cream. Makes 15 to 20.

### Creamy Pumpkin Pie

Pastry for 9" one-crust pie. Follow directions on pie mix package.

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. canned pumpkin	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
1 $\frac{1}{3}$ c. sweetened condensed milk	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinnamon
1 large egg	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. nutmeg
	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ginger
	1 c. hot water

Heat oven to 375° F. Line pie plate with pastry. Beat remaining ingredients

together with rotary beater or electric mixer; pour into pastry lined pan. Bake 50 to 55 minutes, until knife inserted comes out clean. Just before serving, garnish if desired with thin layer of whipped cream.

### Chocolate Chip Cookies

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. soft butter	$\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped nuts
$\frac{3}{4}$ c. brown sugar	6-oz. pkg. semi-sweet chocolate
1 egg	bits
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. biscuit mix	

Heat oven to 375° F. Mix thoroughly butter, brown sugar and egg. Stir in remaining ingredients. Drop with teaspoon 2" apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake about 10 minutes until lightly browned. About 3 dozen.

### Spiced Brown Rice

Brown 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  c. quick rice in 2 T. butter. Add 1 can condensed consomme soup

and  $\frac{1}{4}$  c. water. Boil 5 minutes, cover, let stand 10 minutes. Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. salt and a dash each of white pepper, nutmeg, allspice and cloves. Serve with roast pork, barbecued spareribs or beef pot roast.

### Mushroom Spanish Rice

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. bacon drippings or butter	1 $\frac{1}{3}$ c. pkgd. pre-cooked rice
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. sliced mushrooms	2 cans tomato sauce (8 oz. size)
1 medium onion, sliced	1 tsp. salt
$\frac{1}{2}$ med. green pepper	dash of pepper
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. hot water	1 tsp. prepared mustard

Melt fat in saucepan. Add mushrooms, onions, green pepper and rice, and cook and stir over high heat until lightly browned. Add water, tomato sauce, pepper and mustard. Mix well. Bring quickly

to boil. Cover tightly, lower heat and simmer gently 10 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

### Hearty Supper Salad

$\frac{2}{3}$ c. pkgd. pre-cooked rice	Dash pepper
$\frac{3}{4}$ c. boiling water	1 c. slivered cooked ham
$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt	1 c. slivered Swiss cheese
$\frac{3}{4}$ c. mayonnaise	1 c. cooked peas
1 tsp. grated onion	$\frac{1}{4}$ c. chopped dill pickle
$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt	

Add rice and  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. salt to boiling water in saucepan. Mix just to moisten all rice. Cover and remove from heat. Let stand 13 minutes. Uncover and let cool to room temperature. Combine mayonnaise, onion, salt, pepper. Blend. Add remaining ingredients and rice. Mix lightly with fork. Chill about 1 hour before serving. Serve on crisp lettuce and garnish with tomato wedges. Four servings. ✓

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as a spread on bread or toast,  
as a topping on pancakes and waffles,  
as a dessert by itself, as a sauce  
on puddings and ice cream.

# Lots more...tastier too! that's why so many people go for MIXER MEALS

A "mixer meal" is any main dish of basic foods, combined with macaroni, noodles or spaghetti, it's *twice as good* because the macaroni product takes on the flavour of other ingredients! . . . actually lots more food, lots more flavour, at lots less cost.

Try the suggestions below, or look for "mixer meal" ideas in food columns or in cook books.

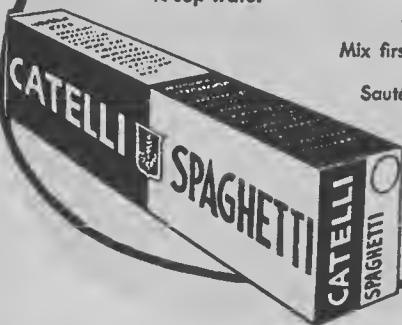
## TRY —

### HUNGARIAN MEAT BALLS WITH SPAGHETTI

8 ozs. spaghetti  
½ lb. ground beef  
½ lb. ground pork  
½ cup water

Salt and pepper  
½ cup apple juice  
1 tablespoon sugar  
6 oz. con tomato or spaghetti souce  
3 onions sliced thin

Mix first four ingredients. Form small balls and roll in paprika until completely red. Sauté until brown. Cook and drain spaghetti. Cover and simmer meat balls for 30 minutes in a sauce made of spaghetti or tomato souce, onions, apple juice and sugar. Serve on hot spaghetti. (Serves 4-6).



## TRY — MACARONI À L'ITALIENNE

8 ozs. elbow macaroni  
½ cup butter  
½ lb. minced beef

10 oz. can condensed tomato souce  
8 oz. can tomato or spaghetti souce  
Salt and pepper  
½ cup grated strong cheese

Add macaroni to rapidly boiling salted water slowly. Cook uncovered, stirring occasionally, until tender. Drain. Melt butter, add beef, and cook over medium heat until brown. Combine macaroni, beef mixture, and remaining ingredients. Turn into buttered casserole. Sprinkle with additional cheese and bake in moderate oven (350°) 30 to 35 minutes. (Serves 4-6).



## TRY — NOODLES WITH TUNA

½ cup butter  
½ cup chopped onion  
3 tablespoons flour  
1 cup pineapple juice  
½ cup evaporated milk  
½ cup water

7 oz. can tuna  
Salt and pepper  
8 ozs. noodles  
Toasted almonds  
Paprika

Melt butter over medium heat, add onion and brown well. Blend in flour, and brown. Add pineapple juice, milk, and water and cook over low heat until thick, stirring constantly. Break tuna in pieces and add. Season with salt and pepper. Meanwhile, add noodles to rapidly boiling water. Cook uncovered, stirring occasionally, until tender. Drain. Serve tuna mixture over noodles. Sprinkle with almonds and dust with paprika. (Serves 4-6).



Remember in cartons or canned it's

# CATELLI

# Ways with Apples

Tasty desserts, wholesome salads and combinations with other foods result from using apples to add flavor and zest to meals

APPLES can be used practically the year round. There is no other Canadian fruit which is available in a fresh state for so many months of the year. An abundance of apples still remains from the 1955 bumper crop and they are good-tasting, crisp and juicy.

The most plentiful variety this year is the McIntosh apple. When baked whole or in dumplings, they require less cooking time than most other varieties. Any temperature from 325° F. to 400° F. is suitable for baking and they will cook in 20 to 25 minutes depending upon the temperature used. Test apples frequently for doneness, for if they are left in the oven too long they will lose their attractive texture and shape.

Apples can be used in so many ways that the family need never tire of them. A fresh apple in the lunchbox adds a crispness to the noon meal. Apple juice for breakfast makes a pleasant change from the usual orange or grapefruit juice. To give meals a lift serve apples cooked or teamed with other foods. Casseroles of cabbage and apple or turnip and apple are both worth trying. Apple fritters with spareribs, ham or back bacon make a hearty meal. A novel change is chopped apple added to pancake batter.

Applesauce, a favorite dessert, lends itself to many ways of serving. Tinted pale green with food coloring, it is especially attractive to use as a base to be topped with red or yellow fruit. For a special dessert treat, spread applesauce on pancakes or use it as the filling for a jelly-roll. There are literally dozens of ways to serve apples—all of them nutritious and delicious.

## Lemon Baked Apples

Core apples; fill each one with 2 T. mincemeat or raisins and 2 T. chopped oranges; pour over lemon sauce and let them bake. When done, the sauce is ready to serve with apples.

**Lemon Sauce:** Cream ½ c. butter; gradually add ½ c. sugar and 1 beaten egg. Pour in 3 T. water, 3 T. fresh lemon juice and 1 T. grated lemon peel. Pour over apples and bake at 350° F. for about 40 minutes or until apples are done. Garnish with slices and wedges of lemon.

## Apple Meringue

6 medium apples	2 egg whites
1½ c. custard	3 T. sugar
	Apple jelly

Remove cores from apples. Prick skins, place in a casserole and bake in a moderate oven, 350° F. When tender, remove from oven, pour custard over and around apples. Top with meringue made from egg whites and sugar and garnish with a spoonful of jelly. Oven-poach in a moderately slow oven, 325° F. until meringue is brown, about 10 minutes. Serve hot or cold. Six servings.

## Hungarian Apple Pudding

4 large sour apples	2 egg yolks
3 T. fruit juice	½ c. sugar
1 c. soft bread	½ tsp. salt
crumbs	2 egg whites
1 T. butter	3 T. sugar

Pare and grate apples. Add fruit juice and blend. Add bread crumbs. Cream butter, add egg yolks, sugar and salt and



Lemon baked apples, a welcome, tangy dessert.

beat thoroughly. Add to first mixture and combine well. Beat egg whites until stiff, beat in remaining sugar until mixture holds in peaks. Fold into first mixture and pour into a greased baking dish. Place in pan of hot water and oven-poach in a moderate oven, 350° F. for 1 hour. Serve with hard sauce. Six servings.

## Spiced Hard Sauce

1 c. icing sugar	⅓ tsp. nutmeg
¼ tsp. cinnamon	⅓ c. butter
⅓ tsp. cloves	

Sift together sugar and spices. Cream butter, add sugar mixture gradually, and stir until well blended. Chill.

## Glazed Apples

1½ c. sugar	6 apples
2 c. water	

Make syrup of sugar and water. Core apples and pare about 1½ inches down from stem end. Place in syrup with pared surface down and simmer 5 minutes. Invert and cook until tender, about 10 to 15 minutes. When tender place under hot broiler flame and baste frequently with syrup until well glazed. Six servings.

## Apple Bread

2 c. sifted all-purpose flour	⅓ c. shortening
¼ tsp. salt	½ c. sugar
1 tsp. baking soda	1 c. grated unpeeled raw apple
1 tsp. baking powder	½ c. wheat germ
	¼ c. sour milk

Mix and sift flour, salt, baking soda and baking powder. Cream shortening, add sugar and cream well together. Add apple and wheat germ. Add dry ingredients alternately with sour milk. Bake in greased loaf pan, 4½" x 10", in a moderate oven, 350° F. for about 45 minutes.

## Apple Sponge

4 c. sliced peeled apples	⅓ c. sugar
2 T. water	½ tsp. cinnamon
*	¼ tsp. nutmeg
2 egg yolks	⅓ tsp. salt
½ c. sugar	6 T. hot water
1 c. sifted flour	2 egg whites
1 tsp. baking powder	¼ c. water

Place apples in greased, deep baking dish, add water. Combine sugar and spices and sprinkle over apples. Use ¼ to ½ c. sugar depending on tartness of fruit. Beat egg yolks until thick, gradually adding ½ c. sugar. Mix and sift flour, baking powder and salt. Add to egg mixture alternately with hot water. Make a meringue of egg whites and ¼ c. sugar and fold into cake batter. Pour over apples and bake in moderately slow oven, 325° F., about 1 hour. Yield: 6 servings. ✓

# Meeting Is Called to Order

If it is to function smoothly, there should be an understanding and application of parliamentary rules of procedure

by ANNIE L. GAETZ

FARM Women's Clubs, Women's Institutes and kindred organizations have revolutionized life on the farm for women. They have brought them into closer touch with each other and with the outside world, and, in so doing, have enriched and enlightened their lives. If these organizations are to function efficiently, there must be an understanding of parliamentary procedure.

Whether the meeting is in a home or in a public place, the business of the meeting should be conducted in a formal, business-like manner, following the procedure set down by Robert's Rules of Order.

Often a president or chairman is at a loss to know when she should stand, or when remain seated. She should stand when she calls the meeting to order, or opens the meeting; when she states a motion; when she puts a motion to a vote; when she introduces a speaker, and when she calls for a motion of adjournment. At no other time is it necessary for her to stand. She may rise during a discussion; but it is not necessary.

When it is time for the reading of the minutes the president says, "The secretary will please read the minutes of the last meeting." After the reading of the minutes she will ask, "You have

heard the minutes, are there any corrections or additions (pauses) if not, I declare them approved as read."

If there is a correction or addition, a member rises and says, "Madam president, this (or that) correction or addition should be made." No seconder is necessary. The president says, "with the approval of the house, the secretary will please make this correction." She then says, "If there are no further corrections or additions the minutes stand approved as corrected." The secretary makes the correction between the lines, in the margin or in the neatest way she sees fit.

The treasurer's report usually follows the minutes, which the president calls for as she does for the minutes. After the reading of the treasurer's report, the president says, "You have heard the treasurer's report, will some one move its acceptance?" A member rises and moves its acceptance, and a member seated seconds the motion, and it is put to the house. The treasurer does not move the acceptance of her own report, because it has to do with money she has handled.

When a member wishes to make or state a motion, she rises, waits for the president to recognize her and says, "Madam president, I move—." Never say "I would like to move" or "I wish

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### BASIC FRUIT DOUGH

#### Prepore

1 1/2 cups bleached or sultana raisins,  
washed and dried

1/2 cup finely-cut candied citran  
1/2 cup broken walnuts or pecans

#### Scold

2 cups milk

Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm.  
In the meantime, measure into a small bowl

1/2 cup lukewarm water

2 teaspoons granulated sugar  
and stir until sugar is dissolved

Sprinkle with contents of

2 envelopes Fleischmann's Active  
Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

Sift together three times

4 cups once-sifted bread flour

1 tablespoon salt

4 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
1/4 teaspoon ground mace

Cream in a large bowl

1/2 cup butter or margarine  
2/3 cup lightly-packed brown sugar

Grovishly beat in

1 well-beaten egg

Stir in lukewarm milk, dissolved yeast and sifted  
dry ingredients; beat until smooth and elastic.  
Mix in prepared fruits and nuts.

Work in

3 1/2 cups (about) once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead  
dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in  
a greased bowl and grease top of dough.  
Cover and set dough in a warm place, free  
from draught, and let rise until doubled in bulk.  
Turn out dough on lightly-floured board and  
knead lightly until smooth. Divide into 3 equal  
portions and finish as follows:



#### 1. Chop Suey Loaf

Knead 1/4 cup well-drained cut-up  
maraschino cherries into one portion  
of the dough. Shape into a loaf and fit  
into a greased bread pan about 4 1/2 by  
8 1/2 inches. Grease top. Cover and let  
rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate  
oven, 350°, about 40 minutes. Stand  
pan of buns on a cake cooler for 5  
minutes before turning out.

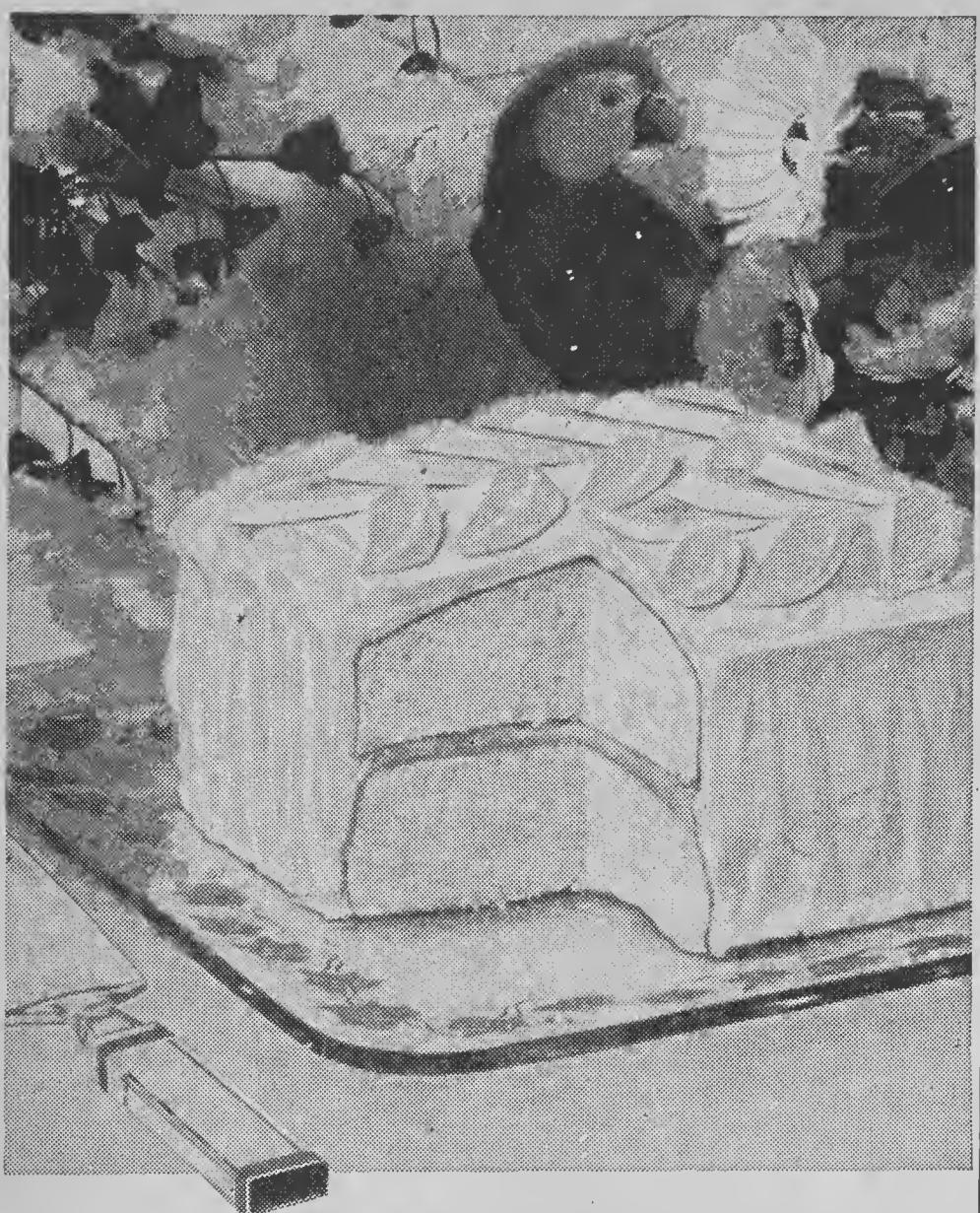
#### 2. Butterscotch Fruit Buns

Cream together 1/2 cup butter or mar-  
garine, 1/2 teaspoon grated orange rind,  
1/4 cup corn syrup and 1 cup lightly-  
packed brown sugar. Spread about a  
quarter of this mixture in a greased  
9-inch square cake pan; sprinkle with  
1/3 cup pecan halves. Roll out one  
portion of dough on lightly-floured  
board into a 9-inch square. Spread

almost to the edges with remaining  
brown sugar mixture; roll up loosely,  
jelly-roll fashion, and cut into 9 slices.  
Place each piece, a cut side up, in  
prepared pan. Cover and let rise until  
doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate  
oven, 350°, about 30 minutes. Stand  
pan of buns on a cake cooler for 5  
minutes before turning out.

#### 3. Frosted Fruit Buns

Cut one portion of dough into 18  
equal-sized pieces. Shape each piece  
into a smooth round ball. Place, well  
apart, on a greased cookie sheet.  
Grease tops. Cover and let rise until  
doubled in bulk. Bake in a moderate  
oven, 350°, about 15 minutes. Imme-  
diately after baking, spread buns with a  
frosting made by combining 1 cup  
once-sifted icing sugar, 4 teaspoons  
milk and a few drops almond extract.



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## Orange-Banana Cake

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1¢ per average baking.*



### ORANGE-BANANA CAKE

2½ cups sifted pastry flour  
or 2 cups sifted  
all-purpose flour  
3 tsps. Magic Baking Powder  
½ tsp. salt  
11 tbsps. butter or margarine  
1 cup fine granulated sugar  
2 eggs, well beaten  
2 tsps. grated orange rind  
½ cup milk  
½ tsp. vanilla  
¼ tsp. almond extract  
¼ cup strained orange juice

Grease two 7-inch square or 8-inch round layer-cake pans and line bottoms with greased paper. Preheat oven to 375° (moderately hot). Sift flour, Magic Baking Powder and salt together three times. Cream butter or margarine; gradually blend in sugar; add well-beaten eggs part at a time, beating well after each addition; mix in orange rind. Measure milk and add vanilla and almond extract. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture about a quarter at a time, alternating with two additions of milk and one addition of orange juice and combining lightly after each addition. Turn into prepared pans. Bake in preheated oven 25 to 30 minutes. Fill cold cake with orange cake filling; when filling is set, cover cake with the following Orange Butter Icing. Decorate with banana slices and orange segments.

**ORANGE BUTTER ICING:** Combine 1½ tsps. grated orange rind, 1 tbsp. orange juice and ¼ tsp. lemon juice. Cream 4 tbsps. butter or margarine; beat in 1 egg yolk and a few grains salt. Work in 2 cups sifted icing sugar alternately with fruit rind and juices, using just enough liquid to make an icing of spreading consistency; beat in ¼ tsp. vanilla.

to move," but simply, "I move"—as a preface to every motion.

The member who states the motion rises, the one who seconds the motion may remain seated. If this simple rule could be impressed on members, it would save a lot of uncertainty.

After the motion is moved and seconded, the chairman rises and states the motion and calls for discussion. After the motion has been discussed a reasonable length of time, she again rises and says, "You have heard the motion, is there any further discussion? Are you ready for the question?" Someone should say, "question;" but whether this is said or not the motion is put in the usual way, calling for those who are in favor and those opposed. The secretary counts the votes.

Members are too often inclined to discuss a motion before it is properly moved and seconded. There is nothing further to be said about it, after it has been put to the house. A member can speak only once to a question. She rises and says what is on her mind at one standing. This is a rule that is often overlooked. If something turns up and a member has an urge to speak the second time, she must ask permission of the president. The president does not take part in a discussion but can give information on the points raised.

An amendment to a motion must always bear on the motion and is voted on before the motion. A motion moved

and seconded "that the motion before the house be now put" is not debatable. If the majority favor it the chairman must put it to the meeting. If the majority reject it, the discussion may continue.

Some constitutions state that the president is a member of every committee. Unless the constitution so states, she is not a member of any committee without appointment. A president is not privileged to appoint committees unless that privilege is given her by the constitution.

Nominations when made from the floor of the house are moved and seconded like motions. If two or more people are nominated for an office, voting may be by ballot when all the names are listed; or by a show of hands beginning with the first nominated and voting on each, the secretary counting and recording the votes.

If the nominations are made by a committee and a member wishes to add a name, this can be done from the floor of the house. When a nominating committee report is given, the convener reads it and moves its acceptance, which is seconded from the floor of the house. When a committee is appointed, first named is convener. She notifies other members on her committee, calls a meeting and presides and makes up the report.

A few firm and simple rules, if adhered to, will make the business of the meeting run smoothly.

## Community Hostess

*When the day comes for you to convene the serving of lunch or supper for a large group of people*

by OLIVE HANNAH

DO you belong to a community club or church organization which uses catering in some form as a source of income? Then inevitably the day will come when you will be called upon to convene a luncheon, tea or supper for a group numbering anywhere from 50 upwards to several hundred. If this is your first venture panic may suddenly strike you at the thought of all the planning necessary to make your project a success. Then perhaps the following suggestions, which I have found helpful, may assist you.

I like to divide my assistants into two groups which I label executive and operational, including in each experienced members of the organization according to their individual talents and physical abilities.

The duties of the executive committee are to determine the price, to decide the type of service, to plan the menu, to obtain all necessary supplies whether by donation or purchase, to check all facilities and if necessary arrange for a program.

In determining the price we arrive at an all-over cost by including the cost of all foods, either purchased or donated, together with such extras as laundry, janitor's fees, paper napkins, floral or other decorations. For a large crowd it is sometimes necessary to allow for hall rental and also rental of extra dishes. When complimentary tickets are issued these must be a cost item as must also be remuneration to guest artists or speakers when a pro-

gram is included. Allowance must be made for the percentage of profit expected and it is wise to make some provision to cover absence of promised guests and some possible spoilage or loss in handling the food.

The type of service, such as buffet, cafeteria style or a sit-down meal is governed by the size of our meeting place plus consideration of the existing kitchen facilities. These factors also influence our choice of menu. We stress simplicity and suitability of food to the season of the year. Here I must point out the necessity of taking every precaution to avoid food poisoning. Refrigeration is by no means general in our club kitchens so do be most careful.

Wherever possible foods should be donated. I try to become familiar with the special talents of my group in preparing certain foods such as bread, pies, etc., and call on these members for their specialties whenever necessary. When it is unavoidable to purchase some items then we endeavor to obtain discounts for quantity buying.

An early check of such items as dishes, silverware, linens and kitchen utensils enables us to arrange for supplementary supplies well in advance. To those in charge of the program I emphasize the need to engage entertainers or speakers as soon as a date is set, the more popular ones are usually in great demand.

The most careful plans depend for their ultimate success on the full co-  
(Please turn to page 72)



Aileen and Roger Wright working at their workshop assembly table. Strings of cork in background, front left: coasters on pegs. Aileen holds a hurricane lamp.

## Strange Sea-Craft

Starting from one simple idea, a young couple have developed a useful hobby craft and their products are in strong demand

by VERA L. DAYE

ILEEN and Roger Wright, young husband and wife team of River-view Heights, New Brunswick, live and work in an atmosphere redolent of the sea. For the past two years they have been turning out unique, decorative and useful articles in cork. These have become so popular they can be purchased now in the larger stores from Vancouver to Moncton.

Everywhere in the Wrights' spanking new home in the hilly suburb across the Petitcodiac River from Moncton, you catch a whiff of salt sea air. That is, if you have any imagination at all. A living room table supports a sturdy electric lamp made of cork floats, piled one on top of the other, weighted at the bottom, and with a brown burlap shade on top. This is one of the Wrights' latest creations, not yet in full production. A cork ashtray sits on the arm of a lounge chair. Colorful coasters in the dining room wait to serve glasses of sparkling ginger ale or other cool drinks.

But it is in the Wright basement one is reminded most of fishing: of dories tossing in heavy seas; of lobster traps on long ropes; fish nets and cork floats bobbing with the tides. At one end of the commodious room, long strands of fishermen's floats hang in rows from the ceiling. In another, piles of smelt nets await the shears and dye pots. In the paint section, coils of heavy rope dry in flaming colors of red, green, yellow and blue.

Though the Wright workshop is 16 miles from the nearest salt water, you have no trouble envisioning the dozens

of fishing hamlets which dot the coast. However, the uses to which the youthful couple put the familiar fishermen's gear are something no fisherman would ever anticipate.

In private life, Roger Wright is a commercial traveller, covering New Brunswick and the southern part of Quebec. During his trips around Quebec's famous Gaspe coast, he often saw the fishermen's cork floats strung up awaiting use. They reminded him of giant necklaces and he often wondered if they could not be used for some other purpose.

Meanwhile his wife had been urging him to bring home some coasters she could use when entertaining company. So, in a spirit of fun, Roger purchased a long strand of these cork floats and took them home.

"Here are your coasters," he joked as he tossed them over.

Much to his surprise, Aileen was delighted with them. Whenever cool drinks were in order, out came the tawny corks. Soon an idea flashed into her head. She thought a round recess in the top of each float would make them more practical by actually supporting the glass. It was only a step further to imagine them glowing with color.

The idea fired her husband's imagination. He had always been hobby-minded and the previous Christmas had dipped huge pine cones in various shades of paint and bagged them for decorative purposes. Working with the corks offered far more scope for his fertile mind.

He built a wooden table in his basement and installed an electric motor,

An  
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such as is used in wood turning. He soon found it quite difficult to turn the corks and cut out the centers without tearing them. So he experimented a bit and devised a face plate and other special adaptations to his equipment which would produce a truly professional looking job. Then he used sandpaper to smooth the cork to a velvety finish. Roger also found it necessary to hang unbleached curtains all around this section, because the light, fine cork dust flew over everything.

In the meantime Aileen tried her hand at painting the newly turned corks. By a trial and error method she finally decided flat oil house paint in strikingly vivid colors produced the best results. Coasters in sets of eight arranged on wooden rods made popular Christmas presents that year. In fact, almost everybody the Wrights knew began asking for cork coasters.

Thus was born the hobby idea which now engrosses this energetic duo to the exclusion of nearly everything else, save their three youngsters, Susan, Peter and Michael. Although Roger has only weekends to devote to the corks, Aileen paints and assembles the various articles whenever she has a spare moment.

**TODAY**, the Wrights import their **T** floats direct from Spain and Portugal. The corks come in strings of 50, with 1,000 to a burlap bale, and in several different sizes.

"You should have seen our basement last summer when a shipment arrived," laughed Aileen, "we could hardly move."

The smallest corks are used for coasters. Next in size are those used for ashtrays with spun copper inserts. Perhaps the most striking item the Wrights produce is their sea or hurricane lamp. Two large corks cemented together and bound with dyed fish net, form the base. Two heavy rope loops make the handle. In the center a container of spun copper or anodized aluminum holds a candle for use when electric power fails. The ordinary type kerosene glass lamp shade is decorated with a bit of fish net dyed to match the rope handle, either yellow, green, red or blue. A triangular piece of cork holds the net firmly in place. Ordinary tintex dyes give clear, satisfactory colors to the net exactly matching the rope tints.

The sea lamp idea originated from a sketch Roger sent his mother in Toronto. She was highly enthused and showed it to her friends, one of whom worked in a well-known Toronto department store. The result was that Roger was asked to produce several dozen for their Christmas trade.

Since then, the Wrights' cork craft work has appeared in Eaton's and Simpson's gift shops from Vancouver to Moncton; in Morgan's in Montreal and many of the Hudson's Bay stores elsewhere in Canada.

"But it's just a hobby," insists ruddy-cheeked Roger Wright.

However, the young Wrights have set themselves a stern standard. They refuse to turn out anything with less than a strict professional finish. From the commonplace accoutrements of the Maritime fisherman, these eager hobbyists are creating objects with a distinctive seashore motif of their own.



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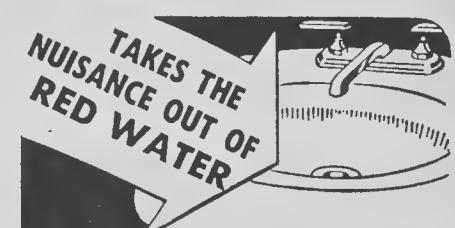
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No. 4183—A basic two-piece dressmaker suit to flatter youthful and mature figures. Slim four-gore skirt gives slight fullness for walking ease. Sprightly jacket features tiny collar, button-front, bracelet style or full length sleeves and nipped-in waist for added smartness. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 40, 42. Size 18 requires 3 yards 54-inch fabric. Price 50 cents.

No. 1528—Plan your wardrobe around this simply made one-piece dress. Just right for church socials and other summer events. Slimming princess style is easy to fit. Unmounted short sleeves, revere collar and perky bow complete costume. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Size 16 requires 4½ yards 36-inch material or 3½ yards 54-inch material. Price 50 cents.

No. 1393—A new look in aprons. High empire waistline joins bib to give practical, well-fitting apron. Scalloped edge of skirt adds interesting touch. Four styles given in one pattern—2 bibbed and 2 half aprons. Sizes small, medium and large. Medium size requires 2½ yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

All patterns are printed with instructions in English, French and German.

State size and number for each pattern.

Note price, to be included with order.

Write name and address clearly.

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No. 4667—Here is a dress you will love. Comfortable bodice features drop sleeves and pretty scalloped neckline. Six-gore skirt gives gentle fullness. Flaps of pockets show scalloped edge. Ideal house-dress yet pretty enough for afternoon wear and trips to town. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48. Size 20 requires 3½ yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

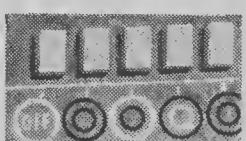
No. 1359—For shower gift, bazaar item or home wear sew these popular aprons. Quick'n easy to make, aprons are cut from one major pattern piece and require only one yard of material for each style. Ideal way to use odd remnants. One pattern size only—designed to fit everyone. Price 35 cents.



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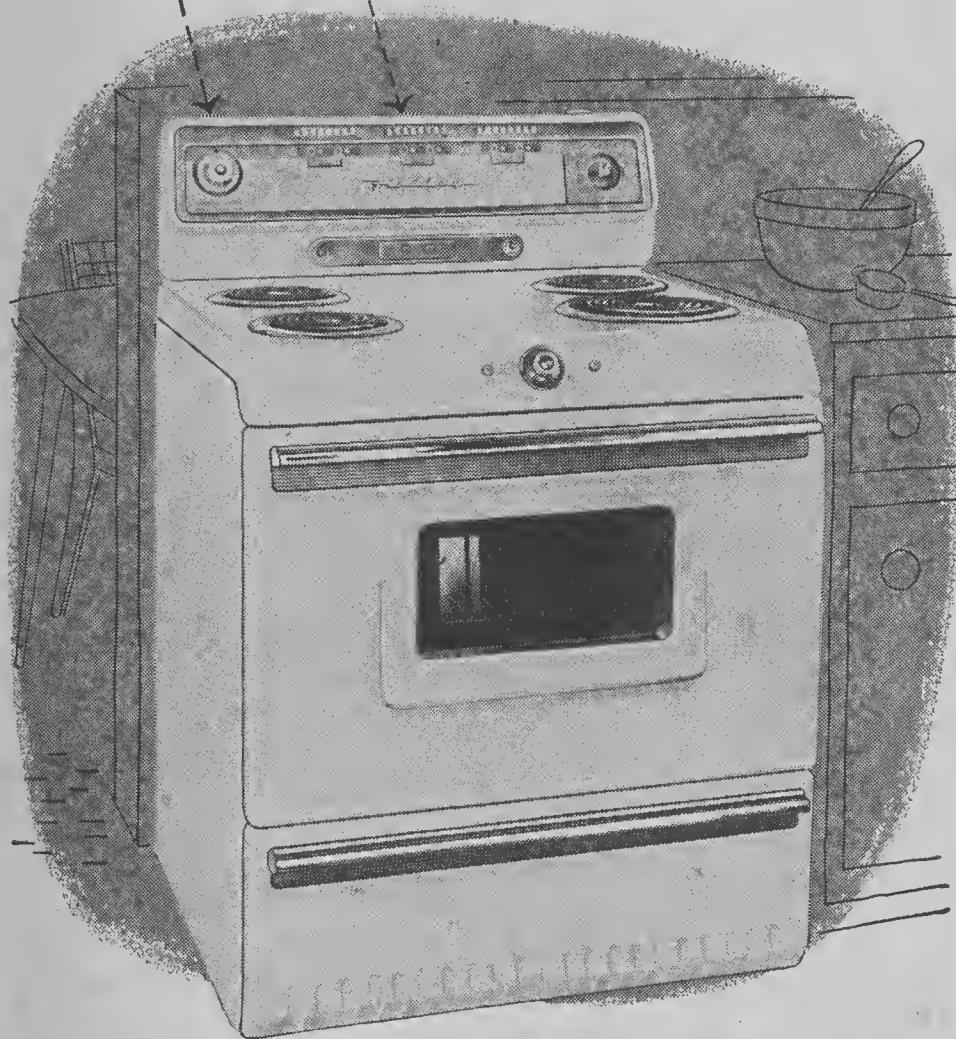
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# The Country

Little white snowdrops, just waking up,  
Violet, daisy, and sweet buttercup;  
Think of the flowers under the snow,  
Waiting to grow!



How dead and colorless trees and grass look in early spring. Then comes the first gentle April rain and suddenly our whole world takes on the fresh green look of growing things.

Many little insects, toads, frogs and fish have been resting quietly in the lakes and streams during the winter months.

After the ice melts the waters are cold and sluggish for awhile but soon tiny creatures begin to stir in the mud. As spring moves onward, clams buried in the mud turn and twist, frogs and salamanders lay their eggs in the warming waters. Perhaps you have watched the fairy shrimp darting with jerky motions through the water. In a muddy pond you may find a crayfish. Notice its big front claws which it uses to grasp its prey and its other pairs of nippers with which it tears the food and thrusts it into its mouth.

Take a good-sized jar and collect some water from a pond or slough — you will have an aquarium filled with interesting insects to study and enjoy.

#### The Violet Rabbit

by Mary Grannan

ONCE upon a time, and not so long ago, there lived a little rabbit, named Ricky. His coat was as white as snow. His eyes were as pink as the petals of a rose, and his tail was as fluffy and round as a new powder puff. Ricky was quite satisfied with his appearance, until the day he saw the billboard at the crossroads. Pictured for all the world to see, was a lavender rabbit, with a bunch of violets in his paws. Ricky looked at the lavender bunny in amazement. He had never seen a rabbit wearing any color but white or brown. His eyes wandered across the big poster and he read, "Visit Langille's Ladies' Wear Shop, and get your violet outfit for spring. Violet is the fashion this season. Even the rabbits are wearing it."

Ricky made up his mind then and there, that he wanted to be in fashion. He wanted to be a violet rabbit. He ran home to his grandmother. He took all his problems to her.

"Grandmother," he said, "did you know that it was stylish to wear violet color, this spring?"

The old lady laughed. "Where did you hear that, Ricky?" she said.

"I didn't hear it," said Ricky. "I read it, down by the crossroads. There's a billboard there, and there's a purple bunny on it. He has a bunch of violets in his paws and he's very beautiful. Grandmother, I want to be violet color."

His grandmother was about to laugh again, but she saw that the little fellow was serious. "Ricky," she said, "what you saw on the billboard was a picture. Someone drew a picture of that rabbit and painted it violet color. There are no real violet rabbits."

Ricky cocked his head to one side and wiggled his long pink-lined ears. "Couldn't I be painted, too?" he asked. "I could be painted."

Grandmother Rabbit lost patience with Ricky. She shook a warning paw at him. "Ricky," she said, "I want you to forget all this nonsense, immediately. You are a beautiful little white rabbit. Be content with the way you are. Now run along and play. Forget all such nonsense!"

But Ricky could not forget the beautiful bunny on the billboard. The more he thought of him, the more he wanted to be like him. He told the squirrels of his ambition. He told the beaver, the muskrat, the chipmunk and the song sparrows. They told everyone they knew, and soon the whole woodland was laughing at the idea of Ricky being a violet rabbit.

There was one who did not laugh. Foxy Fox! He had been eyeing Ricky hungrily for weeks. He had made several attempts to catch the little rabbit, but Ricky had been too quick for him. When Foxy heard that Ricky wanted a violet coat, he had an idea. It was his chance to catch the silly little bunny. He would have to stalk Ricky no longer. Ricky would come to him eagerly. Foxy hurried to his den, and made a little booklet. He painted a few violets on its cover, and inside, with purple ink, he wrote: "Violet is the color for spring. Why not have your coat dyed a beautiful purple? We have several tints to choose from. If you are interested, consult the experts at Daisy Glen Beauty Parlor. We promise you satisfaction."

It was a very pretty little booklet. That afternoon when Ricky's grandmother was taking her afternoon nap, Foxy crept stealthily toward the briar bushes, behind which Ricky lived, and hung the booklet on one of the thorns. He waited and watched to see what would happen. It was not long before Ricky came hopping toward home. The little fellow saw the paper fluttering in the breeze, and plucked it from the bush. He looked at the violets and then opened the booklet. His mouth flew open and he began to hop up and down in glee. He tiptoed to the window of the little house to see if his grandmother were still sleeping. She was.

Foxy knew that his scheme to entice Ricky to the glen had worked. He dashed toward his den to light the fire and get the pot boiling. His mouth was watering, as he said to himself, "Rabbit stew tonight! Rabbit pie tomorrow."

A crow in the tall pine tree heard, and wondered. He flew to the topmost branch to see what was going on

# Boy and Girl

in the woodland. He saw Ricky scurrying through the woodland and toward Daisy Glen. "There's something going on here that isn't right," said Mr. Crow. "I'm going to investigate." He flew over to the briar bushes and came to earth. He saw the booklet where Ricky had dropped it.

"Foxy Fox is up to something, as sure as my wings are black," said the crow. He cawed loudly, and woke Grandmother Rabbit from her dreaming. Grumbling at being disturbed, she came into the open.

"What on earth is the matter, Mr. Crow?" she asked. "I was sleeping. You woke me up."

Mr. Crow showed Grandmother Rabbit the booklet and told her what he had seen and heard. The old lady threw up her hands in fear. "Oh, that silly bunny! He has been telling everyone that it was all the fashion to wear violet color this spring. Foxy has heard of his foolishness, and is taking advantage of it. I suppose it is too late to save him."

"Not if we hurry," said the crow. "I'll send out the alarm. I'll call every rabbit, chipmunk, muskrat, beaver and bird in the woodland together. No one of us is as strong as Foxy Fox, but together we are stronger. Don't you worry, Grandmother Rabbit. We'll save your silly little grandson."

## Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 50 in series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



TOWARD the coming of spring, as the heavy snow blanket shrinks away on marsh and muskeg, the familiar dome-like houses of the muskrats appear, and if it is—as the Indians say—a good "rat" year, the marshes and outer borders of the shallow lakes will be dotted thickly by the dwellings of these well-known little fur-bearers.

The accompanying sketch—a muskrat marsh at sunset—is done in lithographic crayon (variously called grease crayon, grease pencil, or china-marking pencil). I often use it for drawings where an impression, or a certain texture, is desired rather than precision of detail. This drawing has been reduced from about eight inches wide which is the size of the original—and as you see, impressions of clouds and landscape may be obtained with it quite readily.

It is necessary to use a paper not too rough in surface. Ordinary bond paper is good, or even a medium smooth cartridge paper, sometimes called school drawing paper. Actually you can draw on *anything*, but the rougher the surface, the coarser will be the drawing. Of course if you are doing a very large drawing, this will not matter so much.

With this pencil, as you will notice by the sketch, you must not press too hard; the darks are best gotten by going over an area smoothly several times, gradually increasing the pressure. I usually sharpen this pencil like a chisel, using the flat for broad areas of tone and the sharp edge for finer lines or detail. Also, since it is a *grease* crayon, it cannot be erased; whatever mark you make with it on the paper is there to stay.

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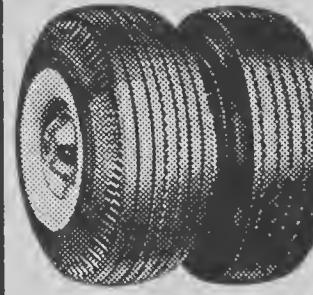
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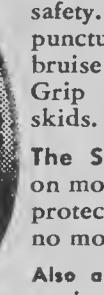
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## Final Salute To a Town Well

*Like the old oaken bucket of an earlier day, the well itself is overtaken by progress*

by G. W. ROBERTSON

SOON we will have no further use for any of the old wells, which for so long have served our town. To those of us who live on the hill, that means just one thing: the well which has supplied us with water, and where we meet others and discuss our affairs, a spot where we as children came in our play and where now our children share their fun, will be another one of the things of the past, fondly remembered but better gone.

That well has become part of many of our habits. You can set your watch by one of the neighbors. Before breakfast at seven-thirty, any day of the week, including Sunday, at ten-to-one during the noon hour, and at twenty-to-six each evening, he starts the pump to get his bucket of water. A grandfather comes quite regularly with his little granddaughter, he with his large bucket and she with her small one, to fetch the drinking water for their home. All of us depend in some way on what we call "the well."

Getting water at our well is a friendly business. At one time or another you are bound to meet every one of the neighbors who live on the hill, because we all get at least some of our water from the well. Any day of the week, at any hour, you may meet someone coming or going, with bucket in hand. There at the pump, as we wait for the bucket to fill, or leave a full bucket standing on the sidewalk, we discuss every subject under the sun. Meanwhile the pump with its steady rhythm, ker-thump, ker-thump, ker-thump, so familiar that it is unheeded, brings up the water.

THE condition of the water is always a good topic with which to open any conversation, for there is a rusty substance in our well water, and the amount present seems to vary according to the length of time we have been without rain, how much water has recently been pumped out of the well, and what chance the water has had to stand and settle. Sometimes, on washday, an unsightly red color is imparted to the clothes and this fact causes our ladies any amount of annoyance. Needless to say, there are times when discussion doesn't get beyond the condition of the water.

However, any subject may be considered—the latest meeting of the Ladies' Aid, Mrs. So-and-So and her wonderful angel cake, election returns, the new school trustee, or change of teachers, the condition of the gardens or crops, international affairs, or the best snowbanks for sleighing. Women and men, boys and girls of every age and with every interest, all get water at our well and all have something to discuss.

On two evenings each week the pump runs fairly steadily for two or three hours. Saturday night is bath night in our neighborhood, and Monday is washday. That means supplies of water greater than normal must be brought in on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

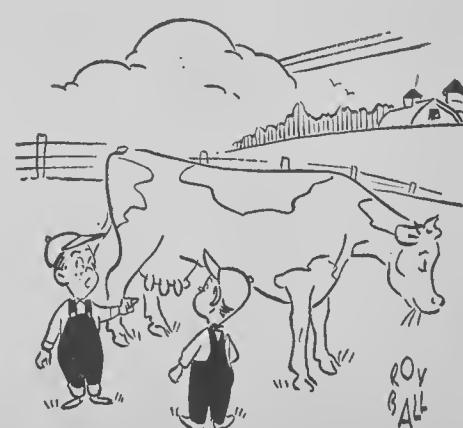
If our town weren't the cosiest little town in Canada, and if this weren't the best farming district in the province you could call the well an oasis, at least in the summertime. Then, in addition to the normal demand for water, road crews fill up drums for drinking purposes, and strangers we have never met come for water. Youngsters play around the well and waste far more water than they consume. In their games, every hero from Roy Rogers to Davy Crockett has a weapon and that weapon is a water pistol. Many battles have been fought at the well site. Sometimes a container has to be filled with water—a small vanilla bottle for instance. Before it is filled to the satisfaction of the one filling it, the pump will have wasted a bucketful or more of water. As yet we haven't run out of water.

IN wintertime the well and the pump are just as loyal as they are in summer. On days when it is really cold the little electric motor has to groan to start that pump, but it works as well as in summer, once the water gets coming. The pump always dribbles after a bucket is removed. Ice forms below the mouth of the pump and gradually forms into a considerable cone with one long side reaching down for half a block. Once again youngsters come into their own for they bring their sleighs and skates, but as yet no one has been hurt on the ice by the well.

Today we have almost forgotten how delighted we were when our well was drilled. Before that great event, from the time our little town started, all our water had to be hauled in a tank for a distance of at least a mile. Into our cisterns, water barrels, or tubs, went the water—to grow stale and unpleasant before the next tank would be brought. Our new well changed all that and we were certainly delighted.

Not long ago two years of work and planning reached a climax. A ditch digging machine moved into town, to start laying water and sewer pipes. Soon we will have water in our homes. Soon we will all have bathtubs, sinks and washbasins running with hot and cold water. Soon a row of small, unsightly buildings will disappear from our back alleys—and soon our well will be no more.

We really aren't sorry.



*"It'd make a dandy fielder's glove."*

# Western Grape Grower

Largest grapeery in British Columbia has 75 sloping acres leaning toward Lake Okanagan

FOR every pound of grapes grown in British Columbia, Ontario produces about 27, and there's little likelihood of this ratio being greatly changed. But the West Coast province does produce up to three million pounds in a good year, and most of this from one small area. Over four-fifths of the total grape acreage is located in the semi-arid Okanagan Valley, and 85 per cent of Valley production is centered around the city of Kelowna. In fact, one-fifth of the total B.C. output comes from one grower.

That is the achievement of Frank Schmidt, owner of "Lakeside Vineyards" at Okanagan Mission, about eight miles south of Kelowna. When Frank arrived from Unity, Saskatchewan, in 1937, he didn't even know grapes could be grown in the Okanagan. But a few years working for veteran grape man J. W. Hughes, clearing brush, planting vines, and building a vineyard irrigation system, soon put him right on that score. About five years ago he bought the Hughes farm, and assumed the mantle of the West's leading grower.

Schmidt's Lakeside farm comprises 133 acres of light sandy land, that rises steeply from the blue waters of Okanagan Lake to a height of 510 feet, which is the highest point in the vineyard. There are 75 acres in grapes, 15 acres in apricots, and five acres in cherries, the remainder still retaining its natural cover of pine.

Because of its southwest exposure, the site commands a maximum of sunlight, which, the experts tell us, is a dominant factor in the quality of a grape crop. The slope and soil-type ensure that no standing water will collect on the surface, or in the root zone, to affect the health and vigor of the plants. As cold air flows off slopes and settles in depressions (frost pockets), the steepness of the land also protects the young vine shoots from late spring frosts.

BECAUSE there is not enough natural rainfall in the area, the vines must be irrigated fairly steadily during the months of June, July, and August. A 50 h.p. electric pump takes water from the lake and delivers it at a rate of 200 gallons per minute to a flume at the top of the hill.

Furrow irrigation is used in preference to the sprinkler method at the Schmidt farm. "Sprinklers don't work well with grapes because they wet the foliage and cause mildew," Frank explained. "There's also a good deal of work involved moving them around."

The water is piped to the head of each row, and each has a faucet at the outlet so rows can be watered independently of one another. A three-foot length of hose attached to each tap takes water to the root area of the first plant without wetting the foliage. From there, a shallow ditch dug alongside the vines carries it downhill to irrigate the whole row.

No cover crops are used between the rows. The land is kept clean by a tractor-drawn cultivator, with a special

grape hoe attachment on front of the tractor to reach in under the vines.

Care of the land and plants takes a permanent staff of five men. As soon as the leaves are off the vines (generally November), pruning begins, and this operation carries on right through the winter. Plants are pruned right down to the main trunk; then in the spring, the new growth must be strung up on the vines again. The best method is to tie each cane in two places; one at the tip, where a tight knot can be made, and the other at the base, using a loose knot this time to allow normal cane growth without girdling.

Sometimes it's necessary to renew old vines that have been winter-injured, or grown out of shape. Most grape varieties can stand a good deal of cold in the middle of winter. However, the biggest threat is spring frost, which can damage the young shoots when they emerge and seriously affect yields.

HARVESTING at "Lakeside Vineyards" starts about the middle of September and continues for about a month. The 300-ton crop requires about 16 steady pickers, and they average about two carloads of grapes a day. Grape picking is popular, as no ladders are needed, and it doesn't require any strenuous effort. Because of this, Frank is never short of pickers: he is able to hire quite a few older people, who would find tree-fruit work too strenuous.

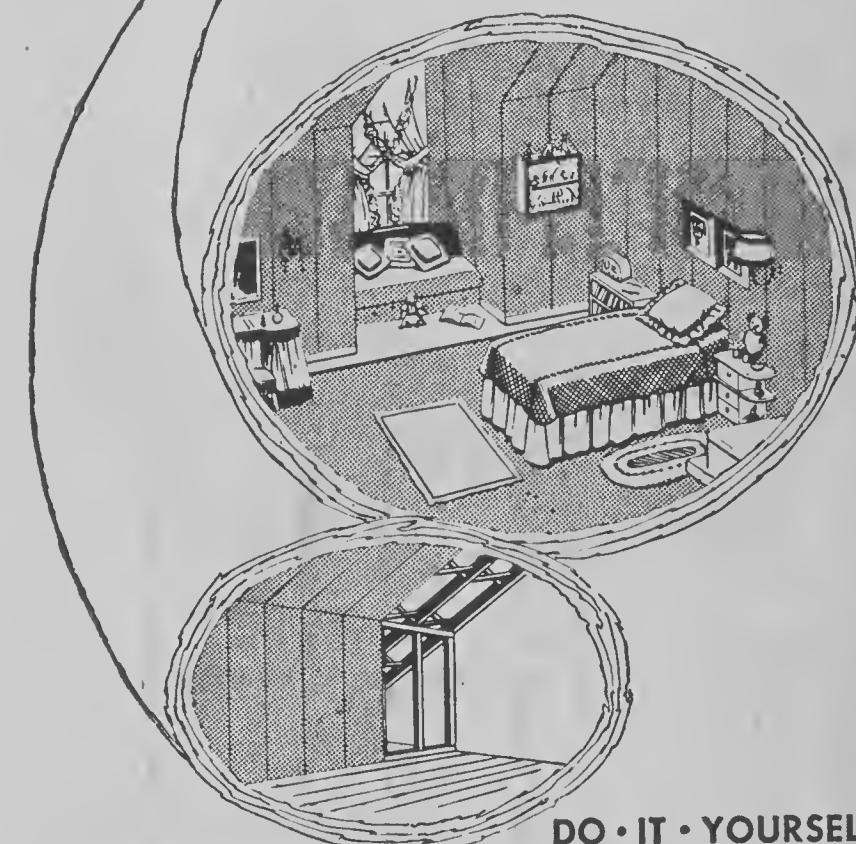
As most of the grapes go to the winery, the variety of grapes grown depends on the needs of this industry. The six varieties grown at the present are Campbell's Early, Sheridan, Patricia, Delaware, Portland, and Diamond. Frank favors the Sheridan as a good all-round variety for both the winery and fresh fruit markets. This is a blue-black grape which is very productive in the Okanagan, and generally receives a premium over most blues for winery use. Its big drawback is that it is late maturing, and often brings a low price on the fresh fruit market, because it arrives when Ontario grapes are in full flood.—C.V.F.



Three generations of seed growers: Center: F. W. Townley-Smith, Robertson Associate and elite seed grower; left, his son Tom, M.Sc., and grower of registered barley, and Lake wheat at Lashburn, Sask.; right, grandson James, 4-H Clubber and grower of Wheat Pool test plots. Unique?

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## Ontario Peaches

Continued from page 9

more peach trees were being planted. It is said now that 33 per cent more trees will come into production in the next three years. A system that couldn't handle the crops of the past few years, could hardly hope to cope with future conditions. So the growers voted in favor of their own marketing scheme in 1954.

WITH the scheme approved, five districts in the province were mapped out, and in each one, growers elected representatives to a committee. These committees elected nine of their members to the Ontario Fresh-Peach Growers' Marketing Board. This board set up the Ontario Peach Growers' Co-operative as their selling agency, and the directors of the Board now serve as directors of the co-op as well. Three members of the Board are appointed to the most important job of all—the price-setting committee.

Here, the growers have mixed tradition with the science of a new era. The committee for the past two years, has consisted of H. A. Dawson, chairman, R. H. Rittenhouse, and J. C. Broderick. All of these men have spent a lifetime in fruit production, and all are farming on the farms on which they were raised. And all, as well, are graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College.

Theirs are the decisions that could easily make or break the scheme. During the hectic peach season, this small committee, so vital to the success of the scheme, meet in the Board office at St. Catharines two or three times a week, to keep abreast of an often fast-changing situation.

The price-setting committee sets the minimum prices that dealers can pay growers for their crop. It is their responsibility to see that the price is high enough to get full value for the fruit, but still low enough that buyers will pay the price for the volume that has to be moved. They are responsible for maintaining a delicate balance between the interests of the grower and the consumer.

The success they have had has already been told. One observer after watching the committee make its important decisions for two crop seasons, admitted with admiration, that despite Harry Dawson's unassuming manner, there was plenty of steel in his character.

THE nine-man board has virtually complete control over all phases of selling the peaches. It can regulate grades and kinds of peaches to be sold. It licenses the shippers, receives payment from them, and relays the money back to the growers, less the five cents per basket service charge (plus another five cents on peaches going into storage) which it makes.

In 1954, the selling pattern they set up ran smoothly. On days of surplus, they put peaches in rented storage, paying growers for them nevertheless. These they fed back onto the market on days when rain, or some other factor, reduced picking. At year's end, the Board could show a healthy financial position after its operations.

Then came the fast-ripening crop of 1955, and a much more difficult year.

Still the Board came through, but not without criticism.

"Prices are too high," screamed some dealers, "Our volume is down." Yet the facts showed that a bumper crop was sold last year at prices four cents a basket higher than the previous year. Suggesting a weakness, one dealer complained, "The Board threw off the minimum price before all peaches were sold last year." "True," agreed the Board, but "this was done toward the end of the season, in the face of complaints that all the Elberta crop couldn't be sold. Strangely, prices didn't drop greatly and peaches didn't move much faster."

"Surplus is going back to the canners now," went another complaint. "That is true," the Board answered, but not with regret. "Again we found a market that the trade couldn't find by itself."

"There is still commission selling," charges one disgruntled dealer. M. M. Robinson, secretary of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, whose office is right on the Ontario Food Terminal at Toronto, answers "That is not true. That situation has been cleaned up."

SOME fruit dealers like the new system, too. One St. John, N.B., broker wrote last fall, complimenting the Board and pointing out that under the former system, dealers in times of heavy production could knock the price down 10 or 15 cents a basket in ten minutes, simply by playing one shipper against another, over the telephone.

Even the shippers who have been licensed by the Board, say that they would hate to go back to the old dog-eat-dog competition that ruled before orderly marketing came in. Percy Schreyer, president of the Niagara Shippers' Association makes that very plain, while admitting that many aspects of the present operation could be improved. But he says the Board is in consultation with his and other groups, and is steadily ironing out weaknesses of the present system.

Eventual success or failure is bound to be tied up with the ability of the Board to streamline a marketing system that growers claimed belonged back in the horse and buggy days. And Board members are busy at that job. They are meeting with groups representing all phases of peach handling; shippers, brokers, chain stores, and anyone who has anything constructive to offer. Vested with power through the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act, they are in a position to make plans on an industry-wide scale, and are doing just that.

They have discovered that the trade is as much concerned about quality as are the growers themselves; and chain store people say that they would willingly pay a premium for hydro-cooled or pre-cooled peaches, which won't spoil as fast. They want the growers to get rid of the immature fruit that won't ripen, and that spoils the good fruit packed with it. Chain stores tell them, too, that it is time some fresh ideas went into peach packaging. They don't condemn marketing board principle either, but told the growers that since they now have the privilege of setting prices, they must accept the responsibility of improving peach quality.

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The Board, in turn, is in agreement with these aims. It has licensed its shippers so that it can maintain close control over peach handling, and might even retain ownership of the peaches right through to the wholesaler or retailer. Should this be done, shippers would only move the fruit for the Board, rather than buy and sell as they have done in the past. It may insist that shippers provide refrigeration facilities, too; and the Board can point to one dealer last year, who shipped 60 cars of pre-cooled fruit out of the province, with only one per cent loss. Yet, except for this isolated case, outside markets have been virtually lost to Ontario growers.

The Board has come up with another plan, also. Its directors still recall, with a shudder, the tragedy of the old days, when, with a bumper crop in prospect, growers would keep a close-lipped silence lest the trade should become aware of this, and prepare to buy at low prices. Now, chain stores claim that they would like to plan advertising campaigns to move fresh fruits in volume, provided that they can be assured of adequate supplies at fair prices. The Board plans to have growers fill out cards describing their own crop prospects, so an accurate forecast can be made.

The Board also hopes to persuade government grading services to spend more time with the growers.

Most important of all, they claim plans are being made for the first time on an industry-wide scale, to bring peach-marketing into step with the times. V

## Apple Juice For Baby Food

by P. W. LUCE

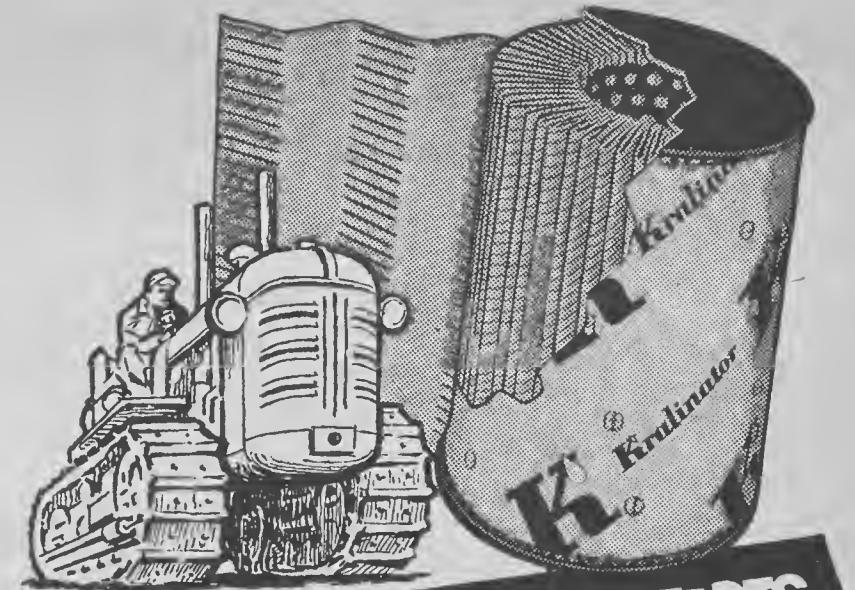
THE apple growers of the Okanagan are now going after customers at the earliest possible stage. Apple juice has gone on the market as canned baby food, properly vitamin-enriched and suitably processed for infant feeding.

B.C. Fruit Processors, Ltd., a grower-owned corporation, is handling the business on a big scale. In Kelowna the employees are filling a 1,200,000-can order for an internationally known company, which will distribute this baby food under its own name.

Presumably many varieties of apples will go into the juice, for the time being at least, because no special variety has yet been selected as most suitable for this purpose. If and when one kind has been so selected, it will probably have been developed in British Columbia, where exhaustive tests are being made at the Summerland Experimental Farm on 185 varieties, under the direction of D. V. Fisher.

So far, the Spartan shows most promise. It is the only one that shows signs of being marked "approved," but it will take two or three years before the tests are completed on all varieties. Any apple must be strikingly superior in one or more respects to a standard variety to be given this coveted designation. V

Spartan was developed at Summerland. It is later ripening than McIntosh, and has a pleasing color and a good taste. Very important, too, is the fact that it is scab-resistant. V



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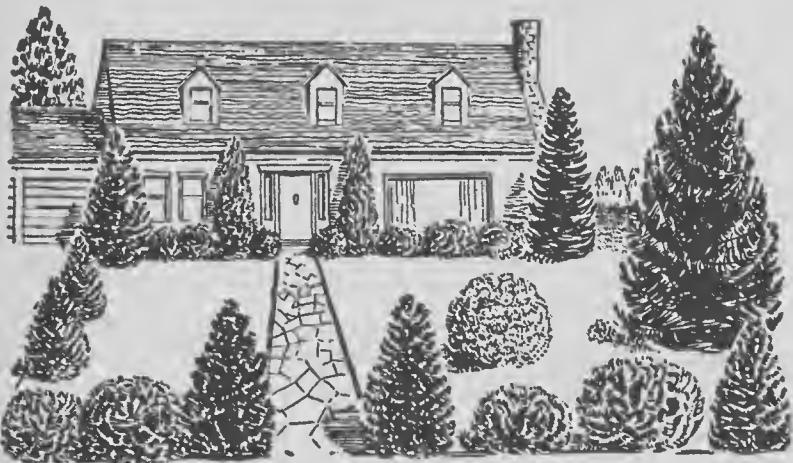


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## It's Free- For the Birds

by HILDA CROOK

FOR years I had always intended putting up a feeding stand on the lawn for the birds in winter but it never seemed to get done.

I'm glad that at last I made that stand. Nothing spectacular of course, but it serves the purpose. The pleasure we have had watching the birds come and eat the suet, corn crumbs, and other scraps, was worth the trouble of making it, for it was so easy to do, and only took a little while.

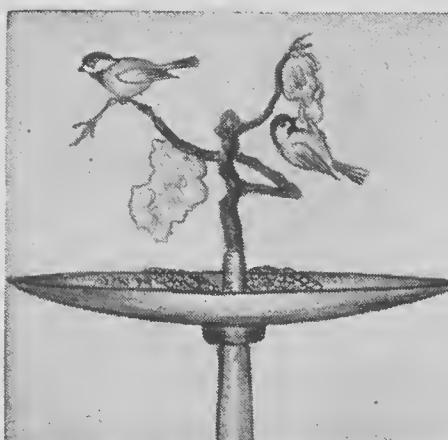
The stand was made from a few things I found around the place. The upright is a drive shaft from an old, light-delivery Ford. This I painted white and put in a hole in the ground. On top, I placed a large power disk, which I painted green. The square hole in the disk just fitted over the axle, leaving a piece above; and to this I fastened a piece of odd-shaped wood (ground cedar root), on which I hang the suet. The corn is scattered around on the disk. A little cement run around the upright holds the disk solid. It wasn't long before the chickadees found some tasty morsels; and now they come and feed every day. At first, only one fed at a time, and when another wanted to eat the first flew away. Now, it is not unusual to see five or six all eating at once.

Then a little woodpecker came. It is very tame and has no objection to the chickadees eating too. It doesn't leave when we come in and out of the doors; indeed, I don't know whether it's always the same one or not, but there is only one each day, and not a bit afraid.

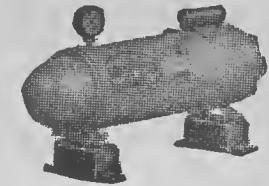
There is also a blue jay that comes and has a big feed. I like to watch him get the corn off the cobs: he pecks so hard that he lifts himself off his feet, then puts his head back and gobble the tidbit.

I DON'T know whether the birds feeding at the stand had anything to do with the sight we saw in the fall, or not. I wouldn't have missed it for anything, and I doubt if I'll ever see the like again.

When we looked out there was a flock of Bohemian waxwings perching near. They seemed to be everywhere. I had wondered why the mountain ash berries were still on the tree, also the chokecherries that I have planted at the back of the perennial border. All of a sudden there were a dozen waxwings in the little mountain ash tree, all busy eating berries. There



This feeding stand was made out of a drive shaft, a disk and a cedar root.



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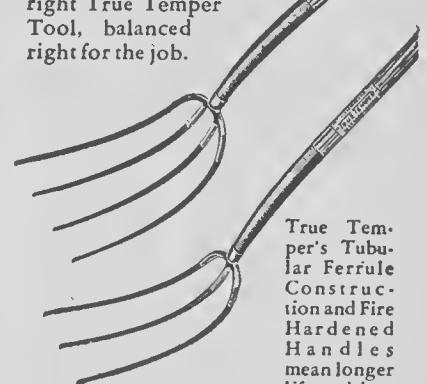
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were about 40 flitting from tree to tree; and at one time I counted 30 sitting in a poplar tree. It looked as if it had suddenly sprouted a queer growth of grey clumps of feathers.

They stayed for a while, flying here and there, and then, all of a sudden, they were gone—but not before they had stripped the mountain ash tree and eaten all the chokecherries. I wish there had been more berries so they could come back for another feed.

The other day we saw a Canada jay. It seemed to be tame, but so far it hasn't come right to the stand. I'm expecting that one of these days that it will.

A feed stand is so much worth while that one should not hesitate to make one, of some sort. Of course a sheltered one is better, one that revolves with the wind, but failing that, make something soon: there will be plenty of visitors if you offer free meals.

## Fertilizer for Grass But No Grain for the Steers

*This Quebec farmer grows nothing but grass, and sells it through beef cattle and sheep*

AT Bury, in the rocky and rolling Eastern Townships of Quebec, N. G. Ted Bennett had followed, for years, the traditional grain and grass program of Quebec mixed farms. As on many other farms right across the country, grass was the poor sister relegated to the least fertile or accessible fields, and often providing little more than exercise ground. Still, the damp climate at Bury brought average rainfall of over 40 inches a year, and the comparatively cool summers made ideal conditions for grass production. To cap it all, Mr. Bennett had long since discovered that the land and climate only gave him big grain crops occasionally.

He saw, too, that Quebec was a heavy importer of beef. Some half dozen years ago, he resolved to point his farm program right at the meat market and has more than doubled the size of his herds on the farm since then.

He laid out his best land for permanent pasture, tearing up nine acres of old pasture in 1950 with a spike-tooth harrow, fertilizing it, and seeding to brome, alsike and timothy. Then, spring and fall for three years, he dressed it with about 300 pounds of fertilizer per acre. Meanwhile, he was plowing another 18 acres, hauling rocks off it, and liming and fertilizing it following a soil test. He got good catches of a ladino clover, brome and meadow fescue mixture; used it for hay and pasture; and now has extended the program to further fields.

He can tell you of several benefits resulting from his swing to grass. While he used to carry 22 cattle on the farm, he has more than doubled the size of his Shorthorn herd. In addition, he has brought the sheep flock up to 30 North Country Cheviot and 20 Oxford ewes, and sees plenty of room for further expansion.

"The animals themselves will tell you another advantage of improved and fertilized pasture," he says. "Just watch them when they are turned out to graze. They head straight for the fertilized grass, ignoring the wild pasture. The calves and lambs are developing faster now and maturing with more size than they used to when limited to run-down fields for grazing."

RAIN is a costly feed in the district. Ted feels that he has turned back the pages of history with good success. He is fattening steers without feeding them a taste of grain. He tried buying grain, but it didn't pay; so now he runs his steers for an extra year, or

until they are three years old. By July or August, on his good pasture, they fatten to a killing grade, and weigh about 1,050 to 1,100 pounds, representing, he believes, the cheapest kind of beef he can produce. With costs so important a factor in his profit and loss statement, he can afford to wait that extra year.

Looking over his grass program now, he smiles to see that the first nine acres he seeded are still producing well. The 18-acre field was badly run down, and is ready to be reseeded now. He believes that once the soil is rejuvenated, it will hold to permanent pasture for several years. At present, he can use any of the fields for pasture, for hay, or for grass silage.

Even with this program, Ted Bennett must pick up a few extra dollars off the farm to maintain a suitable standard of living. The land itself is not fertile enough to do the job alone. So he cuts and sells Christmas trees and pulpwood from the heavily wooded hill and swamp land around him.

### Evisceration... New Style

*Continued from page 13*

ing action of air, from freezer burn and bacteria. It can't lose its color, or any weight.

It is never again touched by human hand, until the housewife removes the plastic coat to stuff the bird. She doesn't necessarily have to remove it completely, because Cry-o-vac film can stand moderate oven heat.

Cry-o-vac film is a special type of saran, is odorless, tasteless, non-toxic, tough and flexible at low temperatures. And, since it is also transparent, the shopper can see exactly what kind of bird she is getting.

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With increased production during the year since Visco came to its new quarters, from 2,000 to 3,000 turkeys are run through every week; and from 10,000 to 20,000 broilers a week.

Poultry growers throughout B.C. are enthusiastic about the new development. Turkey growers believe that eviscerating and quick freezing are creating a further consumer demand for turkeys, particularly on a year-round basis.

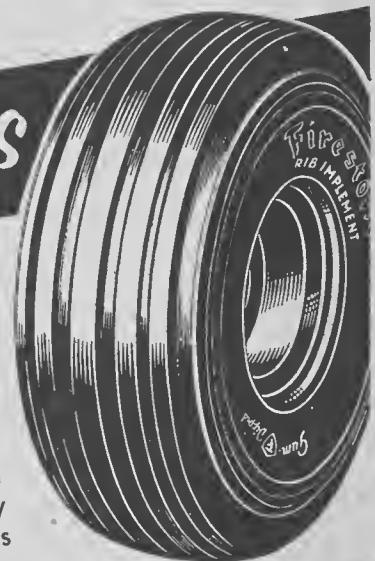
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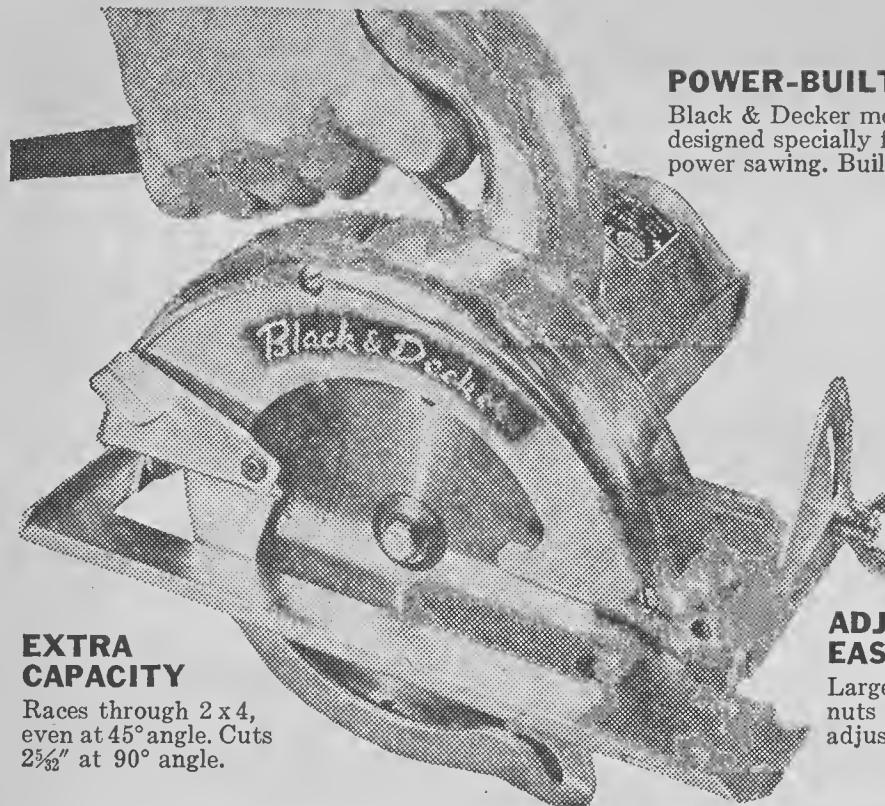
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## Veterinary Forum On Rabies Outbreak

Disease spreading among wild animals across the North, creates a different and more difficult problem

**P**UPPY dogs have been chasing their tails, and kittens have been arching their backs and scratching, for years." That was Dr. R. J. Plummer, pathologist at the Animal Diseases Research Institute, Hull. "Don't panic because rabies is in the country," he said. "It is serious, but it is nothing to become hysterical about."

Dr. Plummer and other veterinarians spoke at a forum, at the Ontario Veterinary College, called by the Health of Animals Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, to discuss the present rabies outbreak in the East.

The meeting was told that Canada has been known to have four separate waves of rabies, extending over 32 of the past 47 years. Yet no human has been infected since 1944. Each of these outbreaks rose to a peak of intensity, and then gradually dropped off and was brought under control, or eradicated. The veterinarians expressed the hope that the same thing would happen this time.

The present Ontario outbreak was linked by Dr. R. J. McClenaghan and Dr. G. H. Collacutt of the Health of Animals Division, to Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Vermilion in Alberta, where the disease was diagnosed in 1952. It seemed to spread, after identification in that northern region, west across to Dawson Creek, B.C., and east to Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and even across the north of Hudson Bay to Quebec. During this time, dogs were quarantined in the North-West Territories and certain regions undertook a wildlife depopulation program through trapping and poisoning to bring it under control.

On November 18, 1954, rabies was diagnosed in northern Ontario at Cochrane, and since then has spread to other parts of the province, including the Toronto area.

Dr. McClenaghan observed that the original area of infection at Cochrane was now almost free of the disease. He offered the hope that a similar

pattern would prevail in present areas of infection. In fact, he said, if the Ontario pattern duplicated that in Alberta, it would run its course in about three years. He described a normal seasonal peak of incidence in February and March, with the disease waning in the summer months.

Veterinarians had realized earlier that for the first time, the disease was spreading among wild animals, right across northern Canada. Dog control, practised with accompanying sanitary and quarantine measures, had been sufficient to stamp out earlier outbreaks. But the new situation faced the country with a different problem.

Dr. K. F. Wells, Veterinary Director General for Canada, recalled that dog control had brought effective control in earlier outbreaks. However, in 1953, for the first time, private veterinarians were permitted to vaccinate dogs, so that now, two weapons are being used to combat the disease—dog control and vaccination.

He observed that suspect specimens in western Canada are shipped to the Health of Animals Laboratory at Lethbridge for diagnosis, while in the east, diagnostic work is done at Hull. Since it is an infectious, fatal, virus disease of animals, including man, and has been listed as a reportable communicable disease under the Animal Infectious Diseases Act in this country, suspected cases must be reported to a veterinarian.

The disease affects all mammals and maybe birds, with the cow the most susceptible. Dogs, cats, foxes, wolves, sheep, horses and others are also liable to infection, while man is susceptible to a lesser extent. Dr. Plummer stated that only 12 or 15 of every 100 humans exposed to the disease would be expected to take the infection. Human treatment consists of a series of vaccine injections.

The rabies virus attacks the brain of the animals it infects, injuring and destroying the nerve cells.

The interval between the time the animal is infected and when it finally

displays symptoms, varies from four or five days to several months. Symptoms vary, too, depending on the part of the brain that is injured, but one of the first effects can be seen in the staring eyes and their dilated pupils. The animal appears frightened and if it is a dog, may acquire a wanderlust and begin travelling. Since the muscles for swallowing may be damaged, saliva will gather at the mouth, giving a frothy appearance. Infected cows may paw the ground and bellow, and horses may bite and kick viciously. Two types are known, "furious" rabies when the animal becomes very aggressive, and "dumb" rabies when they simply become melancholy. Illness usually lasts for seven to ten days.

INFECTED animals cannot transmit rabies until at least five days before they exhibit symptoms, and the virus is then transmitted through the saliva, milk, urine or other body excreta. The virus won't infect an animal through the unbroken skin, or pass through healthy unbroken epithelia of the mouth or intestines. But, Dr. Plummer said, as a word of caution, a person's hand very often has a scratch, cut, or break of some sort. The virus can remain alive for months in a dead animal, if frozen, and for a shorter time when not frozen.

Positive diagnosis is very difficult, and he cautioned that no animal suspected of rabies, that had had contact with humans, should be destroyed until it has been held under quarantine long enough to fully develop the symptoms. This is important because if a dog, for instance, is shot immediately, tissue from it will have to be injected to another animal to see if it will contract the disease, for definite diagnosis. This could mean a disastrous delay before it is known for certain whether the human should be treated for the disease.

The Hull laboratory now is diagnosing 100 heads per week for rabies, mostly from foxes, with some from dogs and other domestic animals. Of the 156 cases identified in Canada in the past 12 months, 116 were from Ontario.

In the Ontario outbreak, some areas judged by the Health of Animals Division to be especially endangered, have been provided with vaccination clinics, where owners could bring their pets for free vaccination. Over 325 such clinics have been held with over 52,000 dogs and 20,000 cats vaccinated. Many private practitioners have vaccinated animals for a fee as well.

Dr. C. H. D. Clark, assistant chief, Wild Life Services, Ontario Depart-

ment of Lands and Forests, was less hopeful that the disease would be eradicated in Ontario this time. He said that this outbreak was primarily a red fox rabies, and that in southern Ontario, the red fox had become very numerous. Normally these animals go through regular population cycles, with diseases like rabies dying out when the population dwindled. But southern Ontario provided such an ideal environment for foxes, that even when their population diminished, there might still be enough to maintain the disease. V

## Canadian Wool Market Wide Open

THE claim made in the annual report of Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd., that there are opportunities for increased wool production in this country, is borne out by Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures for 1955. These show that Canadian wool production totalled 8,041,000 pounds, of which 2,883,000 pounds were exported, but imports totalled no less than 53,954,000 pounds—30 per cent more than in 1954. The domestic disappearance of wool, adding imports and deducting exports, was 59,112,000 pounds in 1955.

"The outlets for increased wool production are wide open," says the co-operative. "It is a well known fact that Canada imports wool annually far in excess of domestic production, and that a goodly portion of the wool coming into this country is of a kind that could readily be produced here. Even so, there is no marked increase in wool production in Canada—either this last year, or the previous year."

The C.C.W.G. board believes that there will continue to be fluctuations in wool prices, but that wool is in a comparatively sound position at present. There are no burdensome supplies, and there has been some general improvement in the wool textile trade on this continent. Australian prices fell by more than 20 per cent during the first four months of the season, while seasonal averages in Canada showed a drop of not more than 15 per cent on fine wools and merinos, and well under ten per cent on crossbreds.

Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, which again handled the major part of the Canadian clip last year, report that their final settlement prices were favorably received throughout the provinces. Their operating surplus was \$28,359. V



H. H. Hannam (left), president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, making a presentation to Colin Groff, retiring secretary, and Mrs. Groff.

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## Eight Sheep Per Acre in N.S.W.

by A. L. KIDSON

A USTRALIA'S Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization reports that its field station at Chiswick, on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, has grazed eight weaners per acre continuously, for nearly two years, on a six-acre experimental paddock. Production per sheep was at the rate of 29 pounds live-weight increase and over seven pounds of wool per year.

Unimproved country in the same area will barely carry one weaner per acre. Many sown pastures in the region have increased their carrying capacity to two or three sheep per acre; but it is obvious that the potential for pasture development in that region has not been fully developed.

The six-acre experimental plot was established by E. J. Hilder, C.S.I.R.O. Division of Plant Industry, and comprises part of the research program with sown pastures at the Armidale Regional Pastoral Laboratory. Mr. Hilder has been responsible for the development of the sward to its present high level of productivity. The pasture was sown down in April, 1948, with a seeds mixture comprising Phalaris tuberosa two pounds per acre, red clover three pounds per acre, and white clover two pounds per acre.

Establishment was slow, owing to late planting and cold winter conditions, and the young sward was not stocked for the first eight months. The aim was to get the sown species firmly established without reducing their vigor or the fertility-building power of the clover.

During the next few years it passed through the normal evolutionary stages of a new pasture on a soil with a relatively low nitrogen level. Thus, the clover was dominant during the

second and third seasons; but as the clover raised the fertility of the soil, phalaris began to build up again. By the fourth year the sward consisted of about 60 per cent grass (mainly phalaris) and 40 per cent clover (mainly white clover). It has remained roughly in the same condition since, only varying slightly with seasonal conditions, and it comprises a good, even, dense sward with practically no weeds.

Superphosphate was applied at the rate of 224 pounds per acre, and the pasture was top-dressed with the same quantity in the late summer of each succeeding year. Stocking during the second and third years was aimed at controlling growth and building up a well-balanced sward rather than at carrying a particular number of sheep. Nevertheless, an average of three sheep per acre was carried in the second year, and about five in the third, without unduly lowering the spring production.

IN May, 1952, when the pasture was just four years old, the grazing rate was increased to eight Merino weaners per acre. These young sheep continued to increase in weight over the winter, when stock in that region usually fall off in condition. After 12 months, when the weaners had made considerable gains in live weight, they were removed and replaced by a fresh group. The stocking rate during the second autumn was increased to ten weaners per acre, but reduced to eight per acre again in mid-winter and retained at that figure until the following January.

At that stage the pastures had been stocked continuously for 21 months at a minimum rate of eight sheep per acre. Toward the end of the period dry conditions developed, later intensified to the extent of causing the district to be proclaimed a drought area. Grazing was intermittent after January of last year, but by September the paddock was carrying comfortably six grown sheep per acre.

In the first 12-month period wool was produced at an average of 7.8 pounds per sheep, or over 61 pounds per acre. For the second year the average yield per sheep was 7.4 pounds and the calculated wool yield for the whole year was 51 pounds per acre. The gross value of the wool produced was £31 per acre in 1952 and £23 in 1953. By contrast, the yield of wool from weaners on native pasture on the same soil is unlikely to exceed five pounds per acre, or less than ten per cent of that produced on the phalaris-white clover pasture.

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The 50th anniversary cake is cut by Mrs. Ralph Smith, daughter of the late James Johnston, who was founder of the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association.

## Men Who Made Norfolk Apples Famous

Celebrating its golden anniversary this year, Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association is proud

THE largest co-operative cold storage plant for fruit in Ontario stands as a memorial to the late James E. Johnston. He was born in Woodhouse township in 1868, and became the founder of the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Under his management for 29 years, and his successors, George Wilson and the present manager, Bruce Wallace, as well as a host of other able and devoted officers, this co-operative association grew and flourished, until now it handles an average of 250,000 bushels of apples a year. It has made Norfolk apples famous, and its plant is second to none in Ontario.

When the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association was formed in 1906, it consisted of 17 members, who banded together to try to overcome the low prices that speculative buying was imposing on them. However, the objective was not only to obtain fair prices, important as that was, but to improve their product, too. Spraying of orchards became standard practice, attention was given to the proper packaging of apples, and James Johnston embarked on a program to inform members of the latest and most successful practices in their industry.

Many new orchards were planted in the years that followed, and members won awards at the Toronto Winter Fair, and even in London, England, where James Symington, their first president, received a gold medal. By 1922, the increasing volume of apples produced by members had created a serious cold storage problem, and they decided to build their own plant, which they did with the help of government grants and subsidies, and by borrowing. They had to double its capacity in 1931, and added another packing room five years later.

Those are just a few of the highlights among the many achievements of the Norfolk co-operative, and it was with justifiable pride that more than 250 members and their families gathered in Simcoe recently for their

golden anniversary banquet. There were many references to their proud past, but they also looked ahead with Bruce Wallace, who urged them to think of growing more varieties to serve the canning and frozen foods processors, who are taking an ever increasing share of the market in this age of chain stores and supermarkets. With its reputation for initiative and quality production, such a challenge should not dismay the Norfolk growers.

### Reward For Biddy

by MRS. M. A. CLEMENT

WHEN Solomon wrote, "Consider the ant," it must have been because he knew nothing about the hen; for even among the cobblestones of old Jerusalem, a hen would have found something to scratch, that is, if she had been a Leghorn.

My neighbor says, "Leghorns are born scratchers," and I quite agree with her. The biddy that is my particular pest has not even the excuse of a brood of chicks to provide for.

She waits, patiently, till I am out of sight, then steps—oh, so daintily—into the bed where I have sown my zinnias and marigolds—and how she makes the earth fly. When I appear, she cocks her head on one side, and looks at me with a pleasant questioning expression, as much as to say, "Tis a foine mornin', ma'am, an' the worms are that wonderful." When I rush toward her, waving the broom, she gives vent to a surprised, apologetic cackle and ducks under the hedge, only to reappear and scratch, with renewed vigor, as soon as I go into the house.

Such industry and perseverance should surely be rewarded. But I am afraid that the only reward, that appeals to me under such circumstances, is connected with the axe and the soup kettle.

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No. 4

## Public Television

BY the end of 1955 there were two million television sets in Canada, whereas in 1950 there were only 30,000. This remarkable growth is a measure of public interest in a new and highly promising means of communication, as well as of sustained purchasing power at the disposal of the greater portion of Canadian families. It is also proof of the wisdom of the Federal Government in appointing the Royal Commission on Television Broadcasting, which will begin public hearings in Ottawa at the end of this month.

Publicly owned radio in Canada began on May 26, 1932, when Parliament passed the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act. During discussion of the legislation, prior to its unanimous acceptance by both House of Commons and Senate, Prime Minister Bennett said:

"First of all, this country must be assured of complete Canadian control of broadcasting from Canadian sources, free from foreign interference or influence . . . Secondly, no scheme other than that of public ownership can ensure to the people of this country, without regard to cost or place, equal enjoyment of the benefits and pleasures of radio broadcasting."

These two ideas have represented the public attitude toward the control of broadcasting in Canada since that time.

It is important to note that reconsideration of television broadcasting by the present Royal Commission is to be based on the principles "that the grant of the exclusive use of certain frequencies or channels for broadcasting shall continue to be under the control of the Parliament of Canada," and that "the broadcasting and distribution of Canadian programs by a public agency shall continue to be the central feature of Canadian broadcasting policy." In addition, however, the Commission is expected to examine and to make recommendations upon "the licensing and control of private television and sound broadcasting stations in the public interest." Thus, while it is to report upon all matters relating specifically to television, it is also expected to report on the much-discussed question of a separate regulatory body which has so frequently been requested by the private stations.

Canadian television was born in September, 1952. By mid-1954 it had made the fastest growth, in population coverage, of any country in the world, with 60 per cent of the population covered by existing Canadian TV stations. By the end of 1955, service was available to 80 per cent of Canadians, who had spent, in all, nearly a billion dollars on TV since 1952.

The very great potential of television in the fields of education and entertainment has been apparent for some time. They are, in fact, so great that the full potential is unpredictable. Television can be a democratic tool of inestimable value. It can annihilate the distance between Vancouver and Prince Edward Island and, at the same time, do it with an effect of intimacy, between viewer and performer, that no other device has yet been able to achieve. With the turn of a switch it can bring the figure and voice of a distinguished visitor to Canada into every TV owner's home; and with equal readiness, can demonstrate in the same homes any operation of public interest that TV cameras can photograph. Educationally, for persons of all ages, its possibilities are immense—so immense, in fact, that it would be a tragedy of the first magnitude if television were to lose either its direct responsibility to Parliament, or its effective control by a public broadcasting agency.

## Production versus Marketing

THE air is full of talk these days about marketing conferences. For months there has been a demand from certain quarters for a national farm marketing conference. Last month in Toronto, a largely attended conference called by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture was held; and a conference to discuss farm marketing problems is to be held later this month in Ottawa, between the federal and provincial ministers of agriculture.

Marketing is in the air, made buoyant and kept so by the dissatisfaction arising out of declining farm prices. The attention of the industry is focussed on marketing, to the point where some are now suggesting that production has been over-emphasized in the past. The fact is rather that marketing has been under-emphasized, which is quite a different matter. What is now being demonstrated is the human habit of progressing spirally instead of in a balanced, straightforward fashion. Marketing is not likely to affect the retail prices paid by consumers for farm products. Successful marketing can reduce waste in the marketing of perishable products, even out prices to growers during the marketing season—and therefore to the consumer—and guarantee a uniform price to growers for product of the same quality, delivered at the same point. Costs incurred in improving quality and packaging may be reflected in price, but marketing cannot stretch the consumer's stomach or plunder the housewife's purse. At best it will guide the production of individual products, so that the marketing agency may perform its real function to advantage, which is to obtain the most for the product that the consumer will pay in relation to the prices of substitute foods. Beyond this, the marketing organization can do nothing, because prices are not fixed by marketing agencies, but by the interplay of several economic forces working at the same time, and achieving a degree of balance which is reflected in price.

All of this strongly suggests that production is a primary and more basic function. The farmer cannot sell what he does not produce. He can seldom sell to advantage what he does not produce advantageously. His standard of living depends more on the amount and quality of his production, than on how he markets it. Successful marketing might be regarded as the sublimation of production, because it aims to put what is produced, to the best social use.

## Marketing Margins

TOWARD the close of 1955, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Benson ordered a closer examination of marketing margins for farm products; that is, the margin between the price the farmer receives for food products and the price paid by the consumer at retail. Some time ago, the U.S.D.A. Agricultural Marketing Service reported that in December, U.S. farmers were getting only 38 cents of the consumer's food dollar as compared with an average of 53 cents in 1945, and 41 cents for all of last year. Calculations were made on the basis of a "market basket" of 67 food products applicable to the typical consumer family.

Neither farm prices, nor retail prices of foods, are the same in Canada as in the United States, but trends have been pretty much the same and for this reason the results of the U.S.D.A. investigation are useful. The U.S. consumer, for example, spends 25 per cent of his family income, after taxes, for food. This compares with 17 per cent for the 1935-39 period, based on the same kinds and quantities of foods used last year. In all, U.S. consumers spent \$51 billion for food in 1955, including that purchased in restaurants, as compared with \$14.5 billion in 1940. In the meantime, farmers' receipts from the sale of food products increased from \$5.5 billion to \$18.5 billion. During the same period, the marketing margin increased from \$9 billion to \$32 billion, but whereas the largest increase in farm food sales occurred between 1940 and 1945, the biggest increase in the marketing bill has come since the latter date.

The \$23 billion increase in marketing margins since 1940 has not been all due to increases in marketing costs. About \$4 billion is accounted for by an increase of 40 per cent in the volume of food marketed. Having in mind the general increase in all prices and costs since 1940, the cost of performing marketing operations in 1955 was approximately double that of 1940. Finally, new marketing services added since 1940 have cost an additional \$6 billion.

Farmers tend to regard any decline in their share of the consumer's dollar with a jaundiced eye. It is true that the housewife is about as likely to criticize the farmer for the high cost of groceries when his share of her dollar is 40 cents, as when it is 55 cents, but the evidence is that consumers are buying more and better foods under the present wide marketing margins, than when these margins were narrower. The fact is, too, that more than a quarter of the increase has been absorbed in extra marketing services, such as pre-packaged meats, throw-away milk cartons, frozen foods, and a much wider variety of canned meats, vegetables, fruits and fruit juices. Finally, no proof is yet available that wider marketing margins are responsible for the recent decline in farm prices of food products. If the decline has been caused in any degree by wider marketing margins, it is about time our university and federal economists began digging up proof of it.

## Water Conservation

THE Ontario Government has introduced into the legislature, a bill providing for the establishment of the Ontario Water Resources Commission. This Commission will have authority to seek, acquire, and distribute water throughout the province and to control all water resources, including an adequate sewage disposal program. The project which the Commission will face is estimated to cost 2.5 billion dollars during the next 20 years. Creation of the new Commission is dictated by industrial demand, and follows the report of the Water Resources Committee appointed last summer, which was asked to recommend the best method of providing adequate supplies of suitable water to municipalities, industries, agriculture, and other consumers for entire areas.

The water problem is now of serious concern to many provinces, states and other countries. It is interesting to note that the State of California will consider this spring a 12-billion-dollar water plan, which would take many years to complete and would involve the construction and operation of more than 260 new major dams and reservoirs. Of particular interest to agriculture, is the estimate that California agriculture will eventually use about 80 per cent of water consumed for all purposes, even after population has increased from 13 million to 40 million and irrigated farm land increased from 7.3 million acres to more than 19 million acres.

Water development is bound to be of great importance to the future of agriculture in the prairie provinces. A prairie provinces water resources commission has frequently been suggested by farm organizations and others, who believe that the conservation and wise use of the limited amount of water available in this area would be best conserved by such a body. The Saskatchewan River Project still awaits implementation and the people of Saskatchewan will require something more than the Hogg Commission Report to convince them that the project is neither needed nor economically feasible in the near future.

The interest of agriculture in the conservation and the maximum wise use of water resources is vital. Farm family welfare is directly dependent on increases in net farm incomes, which are possible in the long run, only by maximizing the use of soil and water resources. To the extent that water can be conserved for all and applied to prairie farms, diversification of crops and income will be possible. To this extent stability will be increasingly evident in prairie economies. Water is a magic word in agriculture.